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GST INCLUSIVE

Popovic opts out against Japan



Australian defender Tony Popovic has been withdrawn from the squad to face Japan for the inaugural AFC/OFC Challenge Cup in Shizuoka, Japan.

National Coach Frank Farina said that Popovic was required to stay in England for a Work Permit hearing relating to his proposed transfer to first division side, Crystal Palace, and that he was unable to make the flight to Japan in time for the one-off game on Wednesday.

"It is important for all our players to be regularly playing at the highest level for their club sides and so to that end, Tony Popovic needed time to sort out some Work Permit issues with regards to his transfer," he said.

"He was with us in June at the Confederations Cup, so Tony is familiar with the team, and my main concern was the bigger picture and that he plays regularly at the highest level as soon as possible."

The AFC/OFC Challenge Cup is only being played as a one-off game this year, but will feature home and away legs in coming years.

Australia won the right to contest the Cup by defeating New Zealand to win the OFC Nations Cup, while Japan booked their ticket when they won the Asian Cup in Lebanon last year.

With Popovic's exclusion, chances are that only Spain-based John Aloisi will be the notable regular to file-out with the rest of the squad on Wednesday

against the Japanese. Aloisi sent in word over the weekend that he would be joining-up with the rest of the team after a pre-season game for his club, Osasuna, last weekend.

The game is being used as part of Australia's build-up to November's crucial 220 World Cup showdown against a yet-unknown South American opponent that will determine who finally makes it to the finals, next year in Japan-South Korea.

***A delayed telecast of the game can be seen on SBS-10.00pm (All centres) Wednesday 15 August.**



Tony Popovic : Withdraws from showdown against Japan.

REDS DRAW FIRST BLOOD OVER MAN U!



Liverpool's unstoppable striker, Michael Owen bursting through Manchester United's defence marshalled by captain, Roy Keane (left), and Jaap Stam (right) on his way to scoring the winning goal in Sunday's Charity Shield clash.

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Ian Knop: "...we are better off staying close to the major corporate."

Knop sticks to Sydney as Soccer Australia seat

By Graham Cooke

New Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop appears ready to usher in an era of stability for the National Soccer League, without the constant restructuring and tinkering which has plagued the competition through most of its history.

Already, Knop has insisted that long-dormant plans to move Soccer Australia's operations to the ACT would not be revived — "it's not a priority, I believe we are bet-

ter off staying close to the major corporate centres in Sydney."

Significantly Knop was in Canberra last week, where the Cosmos successfully battled the latest proposal to eject them from a reduced league, for a press conference just days after his elevation to the position in succession to Tony Labbozzetta.

However, he brought no special favours for the club and Soccer Canberra chairman Steve Doszpot said none were asked. "Simply a fair hearing in future will be fine," he said.

That was something the new chairman was happy to promise: "There's no anti-Canberra bias on the board...everyone realises the significance of Canberra," he said.

He did however foreshadow a closer liaison between Soccer Australia and the Federal Government, with Doszpot given a special portfolio to develop the ties.

"I will ask the board to endorse him as an observer to our meetings, when he would be invited to join discussions from time to time to brief us on issues relating to the Government and how we can maximise our opportunities in Canberra," he said.

In a whirlwind start to his chairmanship, Knop hinted SA might have to consider entering the dispute between the Queensland Soccer Federation and the Brisbane Strikers over who owns the NSL franchise. "We must resolve that for the good of the game in Queensland," he said.

And he was cool on the

prospects of a second NSL team in Perth. "I say that if the figures and the market research and the best business practice all stack up, then let's look at it," he said.

"We have the 'Glory in Perth' that are working well. If we look at the Australian Football League as a model, they had the Western Eagles in Perth working well, and they introduced the Fremantle Dockers and now neither are working well.

"So let's not rush into these things just because someone put their hand up and said they want to open a new team in Perth."

Knop also repeated his weekend statement that soccer would go to war with other codes for the attention of the Australian public and said it was a 'respective collective duty' of everyone in soccer at every level to promote the code.

"I want people to talk kids out of playing rugby league or Australian football and get them into soccer," he said.

WOLVES KNOCK-BACK PETROVSKI'S DANISH OFFER

Sasho Petrovski's dream of lacing boots for Denmark club-side Viborg looks to have hit the rocks in the interim, after their second offer was rejected by Petrovski's Australian club Wollongong Wolves.

The Danish club last week were turned back by Wollongong topshots in their bid to settle terms over Petrovski. Wolves are hellbent on retaining Petrovski for another season and have reportedly slammed a huge fee on him, which was way above Viborg's offer.

Details of the exact offer tabled by the Danes could not be obtained at the time of going to press, but it was believed to have been in the six-figure bracket.

Attempts by ABSW to confirm the true picture were rebuffed when an unidentified male staffer at the club's Wollongong base denied any move to take the player way from Wollongong.

In his words, "we don't know anything about it. Sasho is still here with us and is currently training with the rest of the team. He's not going anywhere".

The prolific striker recently returned from a series of trials in Europe in a bid to secure a club, but indications were that he wasn't very successful.

Meanwhile, in a huge boost to his career, Petrovski was recently picked by national coach Frank Farina to play against Japan on August 15. He led the NSL goalscorers' chart last season with 21 goals and was a key feature in Wollongong's back-to-back titles win.

With the departure of influential captain, Matt Horsley, free-scoring striker Scott Chipperfield, midfield maestro Robert Middleby and goalie Daniel Beltrame, the Wolves are hellbent on stemming the exodus of its key players as it attempts a historic third championship assault, which starts with a season-opening game against Marconi Stallions on October 5.



Sasho Petrovski: Transfer hopes yet to materialise.

Popovic's England move stalls

Australia international defender Tony Popovic has seen his dream move to Crystal Palace stall over work permit problems.

The big centre-half has had his application rejected by UK authorities, but

Palace will take his case to a tribunal this week.

Contrary to earlier reports, Palace will have to pay a transfer fee for Popovic — and have already struck an agreement with Sanfrecce Hiroshima for a price of around £600,000.

Palace boss Steve Bruce rates Popovic highly and was desperate to have him in time for the new season which kicked-off over the weekend.

Despite the stalled transfer however, Bruce remains optimistic that he'll get his man before the new season hits top gear.

Popovic remains positive of eventually concluding his move with the assurance and support of Bruce as well as the Palace board serving to sustain his hope.

The 28-year-old defence strongman initially tried-out with Preston North End, another English first division side, which turned out to be fruitless.

He remains however, keen on quitting J-League side, Hiroshima where he has been for the past the past four years, in a determined bid to enhance his international reputation.

Kingz capture Olympic's Goutzoulis

Auckland-based Kingz Football last week completed the signing of midfielder, George Goutzoulis, from Sydney Olympic on a one-year deal.

According to the Kingz' General Manager Chris Turner, "We are pleased to have signed a young, quality midfielder, that our coach, Mike Petersen, was very keen to have on board."

The 23-year-old midfielder was prominent in Sydney Olympic's line-up throughout last season, helping to a noteworthy Top Six finish at the end of the season.

He parades an impressive 68 appearances in the National Soccer League, during which he also netted 3 goals in all.

The Aussie youth international remains the latest addition to Coach Mickey Petersen's increasingly-impressive off-season recruitment drive at Kingz, which has till date brought in seven tested players from fellow NSL sides.



George Goutzoulis

Goutzoulis' acquisition came on the heels of the signing of three former South Melbourne stars Vas Kalogeracos, Andy Vlahos and Con Boutsianis, as well as ex-Canberra Cosmos winger, Hiroshi Miyazawa.

Liverpool 'Walks Alone' with Shield

IN THE WEE hours of yesterday, (Monday), morning, the now again great Liverpool, made it 'Four out of Four' when it defeated the great Manchester United 2-1 in the Charity Shield played at Cardiff's magnificent Millennium Stadium.

Liverpool had not won the Charity Shield since 1989 and this latest trophy brought a slight smile to grim-faced French Manager, Gerard Houllier.

Liverpool this year has astonishingly now taken out all four major trophies that they played in.

This latest victory was Liverpool's 10th Charity Shield win, equalling that achieved by Manchester United.

Within 16 minutes after kick-off, veteran midfielder Gary McAllister and mobile marksman Michael Owen had lifted Liverpool to a 2-0 lead that had England's League Champions reeling on the ropes.

Very early in the second half, Manchester United's new multi million signing, the

nimble Ruud Van Nistelrooy, halved Liverpool's lead as Sir Alex Ferguson's lads furiously fought to avoid their fourth straight defeat in the Charity Shield.

Sander Westerveld although courageous in diving at his feet, he just failed to steal the ball from the nimble Nistelrooy's controlling boot.

The lithe striker flew past him and slammed into the target what was ultimately going to be United's sole goal of this



Gary McAllister:
Liverpool's almost 37
year old heroic
midfielder.

prestigious pre-season match. The almost 37 year old McAllister drew first blood in the very first minute for Liverpool from the penalty spot.

The highly experienced and industrious midfielder, fiercely fired his shot to the bottom left corner of the target, sending United's French World Cup custodian, Fabian Barthez stretching the wrong way.

Liverpool was awarded the very early penalty as United's powerful skipper, Roy Keane, most inexplicably and senselessly scythed Liverpool's midfielder Danny Murphy with a late tackle.

In the 16th minute England's young exciting striker Owen, doubled the scoreline as he smoothly

By John Economos

wrong-footed ineffective central marker, Gary Neville to easily glide past him and break to the left.

Once in the clear, from an angle, Owen instantly let fly with a flat left footed placed shot that flashed into the far right corner past the outstretched glove of a diving Barthez.

Only unyielding defence and three excellent stops by their goalkeeper and 'Man Of The Match' Sander

Westerveld, enabled Liverpool to hold out Manchester United's second half fury.

England captain and United's right flank midfielder and playmaker, David

Beckham, despite suffering pain to both sides of his jaw from Wisdom teeth problems, desperately tried to ignite goals for the current League Champions with his lethal crosses.

In the second half Beckham, playing his 300th game for United, uncharacteristically drifted well infield seeking further input, only to find, (yet again), Liverpool's disciplined-defiance that previously this year yielded them no less than three major trophies in all three Cup Finals.

Liverpool's tenacity in midfield was again incredible as Danny Murphy, Hamann, McAllister and Barnby displayed granite hard resistance.

Rarely was United allowed to cut clear down the flanks by their twin-match winners Beckham and Ryan Giggs.

Whilst Liverpool was without their international Steve Gerrard, United were without



Sander Westerveld: Liverpool's 'Man Of The Match' goalkeeper.

their new Argentinian mid-field-playmaker, Juan Sebastian Veron.

Three United on-target rockets, fired by Keane (2) and Paul Scholes, were all denied joy through wonderful saves by Holland's World Cup goalkeeper, Westerveld.

The experiment of playing Scholes as linkman behind

sole striker Nistelrooy, failed miserably for Ferguson.

It was not till he released gangling striker Dwight York in the second half that United's attack took a much more lethal authority as Scholes was pulled back into his customary role in the mid-field.

Tana throws weight behind Knop

By Richard Kreider

Perth Glory chairman Nick Tana has come out and expressed his full support for Soccer Australia chairman Ian Knop in his call for a unified approach within the code.

"There is so much good in the game that has been buried under political in-fighting," said Mr Tana in a club press release last week.

"Now it is time to concentrate on the positives. Soccer is the biggest junior code in Australia; it is the biggest sport in the world.

"We now have in power a man we can do business with and who can help attract the sort of corporate support soccer deserves.

"Personalities and politics have hogged the headlines for too long. Now it is time for players to take the centre stage and for what happens on the pitch to be the centre of attention, not what happens off it.

"We have a Soccerroos team with a great chance of qualification for the 2002 World Cup Finals and it is the duty of all involved in the National Soccer League to make sure we have an infrastructure in place that can make the most of the

exposure that could bring.

"In Western Australia Perth Glory has shown what the future can hold for Australian soccer.

"Perth Glory has not waved magic wands, it has applied proven top class marketing principles to the sport and shown that when people come to games they will return if they get a value for money entertainment experience," said Mr Tana.

"We are willing to share that expertise with other NSL clubs where they think they can apply some of our proven methods. We must all grow together of success is to be achieved."

Mr Tana said he was ready to sit down and negotiate at all levels of the game to take the code to a new level of success.

"I have already had extensive discussions with people at many levels of the game in WA and nationally and I know there is more goodwill than people think.

"If we can all look to the future and work together there is nothing to stand in soccer's way.

"The new direction taken at the extraordinary general meeting is a new beginning for soccer in this country. Now we must seize the opportunity presented.

Mr Tana said Perth Glory was ready to help Western Australian soccer in any way it could and made it clear that in the right climate a new home for Glory could also be a new home for soccer in the State.

"I can say now that if the Leederville Stadium project gets the go-ahead then Perth Glory will also offer the facilities to local soccer.

"It will not be just Perth Glory but the code across the State that will reap the benefits.

"The same is true of new Perth Glory Development Program under Frank Arok, where 180 or so young players will get top class skills coaching to complement the existing work they are doing with established clubs.

"If we produce 180 better players then that raises standards across all competitions in WA."

"Perth Glory has shown a real commitment to Western Australian soccer and will continue to do so. Those who share a common vision for the common good of the game will find us willing partners.

"I am not interested in old grudges. Now is the time to move forward together to the next level," Tana concluded.

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The Good Oil ... The Good Oil

SYDNEY UNITED is searing up for a sparkling new season, having made several new signings to bolster its NSL squad.

Already United has announced that it will sign two top Croatian internationals, attacking midfielders Aljosa Asanovic plus the sensational Davor Suker.

Asanovic made some impressive Guest Appearances last season for United, but this time round has made it clear he wishes to play a full season with the Sydney-based and Croatian orientated Club.

Asanovic, capped 56 times for Croatia, created history for himself when he scored Croatia's first ever goal in a World Cup final, against Argentina in USA '94.

The fabulously silky smooth Suker went one better in the following Finals when he became the top goalscorer in the France '98 World Cup by nailing in six goals.

Both Asanovic and Suker won Bronze Medals at the France '98 World Cup Finals.



Aljosa Asanovic:
Coming back to Sydney United.

But 'Good Oil' late last week latched onto that Sydney United's newly appointed 46 year old coach, Kreso Ganjto, has secretly been endeavouring to entice yet another Croatian World Cup star to come out and play for Sydney United.

A.C. Milan's illustrious midfielder, Zvonimir Boban, has already been targetted to come to Australia as a Special Guest player for at least two Sydney United NSL games.

Boban has been loaned out for one season to Spanish First Division side, Celta Vigo.

How Sydney United expects to be able to obtain Boban's release from the Spaniards to Guest for United, is a mystery at this stage.

Is it possible one can now imagine that no less than three Croatian World Cup stars could be playing for Sydney United in the coming season?

Where on Earth would United play these games.

Surely The Croatian Sports Centre could not hold the tremendous turnout that this World Cup 'trifecta' would draw.

And all this at a time when this Club less than six months ago, trembled in its boots as its very existence in the National League was being severely threatened by various criterias.



Zvonimir Boban: Targetted by Sydney United.

LAST Friday, following an NSL meeting of Clubs, it was established that the NSL Executive was disbanded with a new NSL Members' Commission being formed.

The NSL Commission will comprise of a 14 man board with each member being a senior representative of the affiliated NSL Club.

It's envisaged that this Commission will meet monthly at a rotating meeting venue with the Chairman of Soccer Australia, or a Commissioner, attending such meetings.



"It's critical for the NSL clubs to take control of their own future," commented new Chairman Ian Knop.

The old NSL Executive formed since early 1980s, was made up of seven elected members from the NSL clubs and acted only in an advisory capacity on behalf of the NSL to Soccer Australia.

WHO was the Australian striker that was in recent weeks deprived of a European contract, just because his agent handling him became ultra greedy?

The young Aussie NSL marksman during the current off-season, had flown

to Europe for trials with two clubs, (one in Division 2).

The guy did very well over there.

He even scored a bag of goals that hugely impressed the coaching staff of both clubs.

When the respective officials commenced preliminary negotiations to sign the player, that's when they struck a brick wall.



By John Economos

Late last week, when Darby spoke to 'Good Oil', he stated:

"It's a challenging job as Vietnam has many super players, especially in Mens Soccer.

"They are very quick and highly technically skilled.

"Most of the players are fulltime as they are all serving a career in the Army.

"However no Vietnamese players are allowed to play professional Soccer overseas.

"A Sydney NSL club coach recently came over to Hanoi and tried to sign up two players to play for him in the NSL.

"However his efforts were blocked by the Governmental restrictions," ended Darby.

Darby's contract with the Vietnamese F.A. ends in September.

After that he will fly to England where Darby has a job waiting for him with Sheffield Wednesday's Youth team.

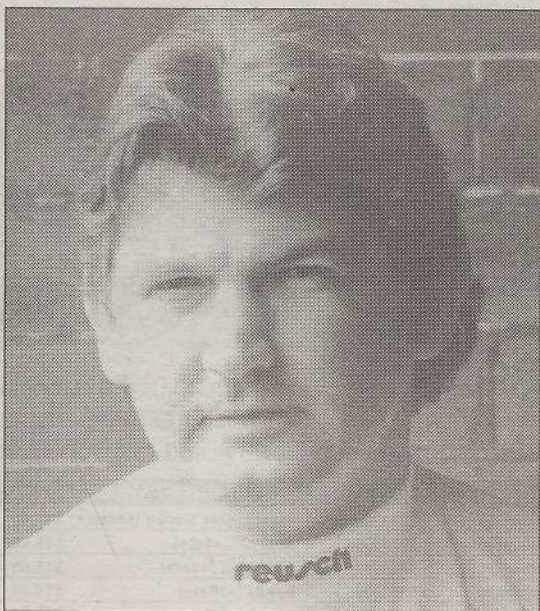
At Sheffield Wednesday Darby will link up with former Australian National Coach, Jimmy Shoulder who is Sheffield Wednesday's current Director Of Football.

Darby's Vietnamese Girls' team lost its first match last week in Gosford against the NSW Institute by 2-0 but in their second game defeated Indonesia 6-0.

In Vietnam's last game Darby's team went down 2-0 to Australia's Under 19s side.

Darby flew out of Sydney with his Vietnam Women's team last Sunday morning.

□□□□



Steve Darby: Soon to join Sheffield Wednesday.

THE BILL TURNER CUP Final Under 15s knockout Series has been scheduled to be played over two days at the Edgeworth Soccer Ground, Edgeworth, Northern NSW.

The programme will also include the 14th Final Series of the Bill Turner Trophy Girls' competition that this year attracted 274 entries.

On Tuesday, September 11th and starting at 3.00pm the first of the semi-finals will be played.



On Wednesday, September 12th and also starting at 3.00pm will be the play-offs for 3rd and 4th place.

At 5.45pm the first Grand Final for the Bill Turner Trophy will start.

At 7.30pm the Grand Final for the LG Bill Turner Cup will start.

This will be the 23rd Finals Series of the LG Bill Turner Cup for Under 15s.

This year the knockout competition attracted no less than 615 teams.

□□□□

MARCONI, under newly installed coach Lee Sterrey, will travel to Griffiths for a seven day pre-season training camp.

Whilst there, Marconi plans to play an exhibition match down in the Riverina.

The camp will last from August 21st through till the 27th.

Marconi's star international sweeper, Angelo Costanzo, who is currently with the Australian team to play Japan tomorrow, (Wednesday), will join the Marconi squad after Australia has played Japan and the Solomon Islands in Honiara on August 18th.

By the way, rumours that Costanzo had again taken off to Europe on trials, are certainly most incorrect to say the least.

Costanzo assured 'Good Oil' of this last Saturday before departing with the Australian squad on their Qantas night flight bound for Japan.

□□□□

AUSTRALIA tomorrow, (Wednesday), will face the national team of Japan without six of their star players.

All six are currently based with foreign club sides that have refused their release for the friendly international.

Five of the six have now joined new clubs.

French coach of the Japan side, Philippe Troussier,

maintained that he specifically didn't call up his six foreign based players as it would have put pressure on them with their new clubs.

Star midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata who scored Japan's goal in Australia's 1-0 defeat last June in the Confederation Cup, will not play.

Nakata was recently signed from Roma by Parma.

Frank Farina's Australian team flew out of Sydney last Saturday bound for Japan.

The Japan vs Australia match will be delayed telecast by SBS to all centres tomorrow, Wednesday, at 10.30pm.

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DYNAMIC former New Zealand World Cup veteran striker, Wynton Rufer, has again signed up to play yet another season with the Auckland Kingz.

Despite now having seen no less than 38 Summers, the superbly high quality marksman still has a lot to offer Soccer, according to the Kingz' newly installed manager-coach, Mickey Petersen.

Rufer becomes a likely historic first as he also is



George Goutzioulis:
Signed last week by the Kingz.

fielder, late last week surprisingly signed for the Auckland Kingz.

Sydney Olympic released the industrious Goutzioulis at the end of last season, having signed him from South Melbourne.

□□□□

DAVID WOOLLEY, Soccer Australia's C.E.O., surprisingly 'resigned' from his position late last week.

Did Woolley resign, or was he pushed out by the new regime at Soccer Australia?

The latter is almost certainly, (make that definitely), the case.



Wynton Rufer: At 38, laces up yet again for the Kingz.

now on the Board of Directors of the Kingz.

Petersen, who during the current off season replaced Rufer as the Kingz' coach, exhibited his great admiration for Wynton by stating that he would also use Rufer in an advisory capacity.

What one would call sheer professional respect.

□□□□

GEORGE GOUTZIOULIS, Sydney Olympic's fiery mid-

Mr Woolley, (but without real clout), was in 'charge' since 1995 of Soccer Australia's day-to-day management team.

But has the always very pleasantly mannered Woolley now been made the sacrificial lamb in the 'White Tower' of Soccer Australia?

Most, (if not all), of Soccer's ailments, (and by a very long shot), have certainly not stemmed from Woolley's doings, let alone

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many of the key-staff appointments at Soccer Australia.

Will the sackings continue by this new regime?

Or is Woolley's sacking going to be just another case of 'shifting the deck chairs on the Titanic'?

What must be said here in Mr Woolley's defence, whilst he was in charge, he more than doubled the level of urgently needed sponsorship revenues at Soccer Australia.

Most valuable sponsorships that included large prestigious corporate identities such as L.G. Electronics, the Seven Network, adidas, Telstra as well as Qantas.

must be totally out of whack.

Debits that include a horrendous pay-roll going out to an army of employees.

Serious investigations and assessments in this vital region are a must, to flush out, (if any), corporate and unproductive refuges.

□□□□

SBS-TV, Australia's Super Soccer Channel, as from this Saturday will kick off its new 'trifecta of programmes' of the new England premier League.

This Saturday at 3.30pm, SBS will screen its new 'Preview Show' of the England Premier League

late in 1980, (and with the Live coverage of an Australian international), SBS has been treated like crap by our Soccer hierarchy. "Get Soccer away from SBS", has been our political-minded administrators' line of thought.

Well, the Seven Network, as the current rights holder of Australian Soccer, is certainly treating our code well, methinks not.



By John Economos

ADELAIDE CITY almost found itself without a recognised goalkeeper as the Club's No1 custodian, Adrian Cagalj, had trials

"We could be leaving as early as September 2nd and I want my squad to train and play in heated conditions.

"Our pre-season last year was not exactly what I wanted but this time round I hope we'll get it right," ended Matic.



Adrian Cagalj: Back from trials with Sheffield United.

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WOLLONGONG WOLVES over the weekend were ratified that they would be on the receiving end of some \$1.45 million as compensation from FIFA.

Due to the collapse of FIFA's Second World Club Championships that were to take place in Spain this month, FIFA promised all 12 clubs that had qualified, a compensation of \$US750,000 would be paid to them.

However as handsome a sum as this fee first appears to be, it is far short of the promised \$A4 million initially pledged by FIFA to every club that was going to compete in Spain.

Commenting on the less-than-expected compensation fee his Club is now going to receive, the Wollongong Wolves' President, Mr Joe Cachia stated to 'Good Oil' yesterday:

"I have written to FIFA to inform them that it's not what we really expected, or initially promised.

"We want the rest. I believe that FIFA had a meeting last Friday in Zurich.

"We want to know what Wollongong now really has to do to qualify for the now 2003 World Championships.

"If we have to qualify again by going through Oceania, then I can live with that.

"But if we have to win another Grand Final, (a third in a row), plus go through Oceania again, well that's a big ask really.

"I'm waiting for FIFA's response to our questions and it all hinges on what our next move will be.

"If we are asked to again win another Grand Final, then we will be seeking legal action for the balance of the \$4 million we were



Mr Joe Cachia: Wollongong Wolves' President.

initially promised," Mr Cachia threatened.

FIFA over the week-end announced that its World Club Championships could be revived in 2003, and possibly staged in Spain.

As well, FIFA hinted that should the Championships be revived, they would also be expanded from a 12 Club format to a 16 Club tournament.

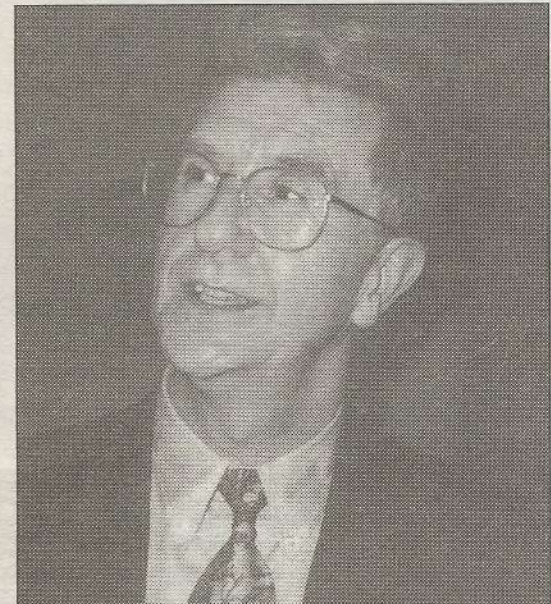
An Executive Meeting set down to be held on December 1st in Pusan, South Korea, will ultimately decide the final format as

well as the host nation.

At this stage FIFA envisages that the next World Club Championships would be staged January to mid February, or mid July through to mid August 2003.

As well as Spain, FIFA is considering other venues, including Australia, England, Egypt, Japan, Mexico, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia as well as the USA.

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David Woolley: Soccer Australia's former C.E.O.

Today, 'Good Oil' is led to believe, that sponsorship revenue streams flowing into the coffers of Soccer Australia tally up to more than \$8million per annum.

So the income side of the ledger appears to be most satisfactory.

Therefore the debit side of Soccer Australia's ledger

which kicks off this Saturday night (a.e.s.t.).

From this Sunday, at 4.00pm, SBS will screen its 'Match Of The Week' show.

And as from next Monday night at 7.30pm, SBS will screen its 'Review Show'.

Yet time after time, since Australia's 'baby Network' commenced transmission

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WITH the resignation of Soccer Australia's C.E.O. Mr David Woolley late last week, Mr Ian Holmes has been temporarily installed as Acting C.E.O. of the National body.

Mr Holmes last night advised 'Good Oil': "I shall only be operating in this position until the Board of Commissioners appoints the new Chief Executive.

"You will be advised once this appointment has been made," ended Mr Holmes.

Mr Holmes kicked off his career in Soccer in the 70s when as a youngster he became President of the large NSW Amateur Soccer Federation, later gaining the position of

over in England recently with Sheffield United.

However had Cagalj managed to crack a contract with the English Club, the 'Black and Whites' could have been severely stranded for an NSL experienced gloveman.

The goalkeeper is now back safely in Adelaide and will have his first pre-season training session tonight, (Tuesday), with City.

Adelaide City's experienced central marker, Ante Kovacevic, left last Saturday bound for Germany.

Kovacevic has been promised a 10 day trial with a yet to be disclosed German club.

Meanwhile Adelaide City's hard taskmaster Zoran Matic, has pencilled in a tour of the Pacific very early next month.

The tour will take in four matches against club teams in American Samoa, Fiji, Samoa and Tonga.

The 'Black and Whites' kicked off their pre-season training last week.

Matic stated to 'Good Oil' last night:



General Manager of NSW.

During John Constantine's regime as Chairman at Soccer Australia, (just prior to David Hill), Mr Holmes was the national body's C.E.O.

Following the infamous Stewart Inquiry, Holmes left Soccer Australia but returned two years ago in the position of General Manager of Soccer Australia.

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Zoran Matic: Coach of the 'Black and Whites'.



COACHES WANTED

Applications are invited for the 2002 Season for the following coaching positions. All applicants must hold a minimum intermediate licence.

SUPER LEAGUE
U/18's, U21's & First Grade.

YOUTH LEAGUE
U/13's, U/14's, U/15's, U/16's.

CADET LEAGUE
U/11's & U/12's.

Applications to be sent to:
THE SECRETARY
P.O. BOX 200
PENDLE HILL, NSW. 2145.
OR BY FAX TO 9609 6696

Enquiries Contact: **CHARLES ABDILLA**
9757 2906 or 0416 171 896

Applications Close: 31st August 2001

SUTHERLAND SHIRE Soccer Club



The Sharks are now accepting applications for Coaches and Managers for the Season 2002

Cadets and Youth League

Under 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 17

Coaches and managers will be required to work within the Club Development program. Reporting to the Director of Coaching. Applications close 17th September, 2001.

Please submit your application, including resumé to:

Sutherland Shire Soccer Football Club Inc.

Attention: **The Secretary**
P.O. Box 583
Gymea, NSW. 2228.

PREMIER LEAGUE TRIALS

First Grade Wednesday 22, 29 August 2001
Starting 6.30pm

Under 19s Tuesday 21, 23, Thursday 28, 30 August 2001
Starting 6.30pm

Venue:

Seymour Shaw Soccer Stadium
Ground Number Two
The Boulevard
Miranda, NSW. 2228.

MOORE, VIDMAR OUT FOR 5 WEEKS

Aussie central defender and Glasgow Rangers stalwart Craig Moore's knee injury could keep him out of action for at least five weeks, while fellow-Socceroo Tony Vidmar has also damaged a hamstring.

Both players picked-up the injuries at penultimate weekend's Scottish premier league, goalless draw with Livingston.

Both Moore and Vidmar are the latest Rangers players to join the growing Ibrox casualty list.

Their plight comes at the same time when Rangers captain Barry Ferguson has also been ruled out of action for a minimum of six weeks with a troublesome Achilles injury that has been plaguing him for some time.

Ferguson travelled to San Francisco on Sunday to see a specialist for what will be a

third opinion on the problem which has left the midfielder on crutches.

The news is a blow not only for Dick Advocaat, who would have wanted Ferguson back for the crucial Champions League second leg against Fenerbahce in Turkey in a fortnight next week, but also for Scotland manager Craig Brown.

Scotland have two vital World Cup qualifying match-

es at the beginning of September against Croatia and Belgium and Ferguson will definitely miss those.

Advocaat's squad has been beset by injuries once again this season, but he stressed that Ferguson's injury would clear up through rest.

"Ferguson will probably be out longer than the medical staff expected," he said over the weekend after

Rangers' crushing 4-1 win over Dumbfries.

"It's not serious but it's an injury that means he cannot play next week. It will take longer but how long he is out for I don't know.

"He doesn't need an operation, just a rest."

The Aussies join other regulars Claudio Reyna, Christian Nerlinger and Lorenzo Amoroso on the treatment table.



Tony Vidmar (right): Will be out of action for the next five weeks at Rangers, with a pulled hamstring.

SHEPPARTON TRIUMPHS IN VIC COUNTRY CUP FINAL

By Roy Hay

The North Eastern Soccer League from Shepparton beat Geelong's Western Victoria Soccer Association by 3-0 in the Country Cup Final played at Bob Jane Stadium on Sunday as the curtain

raiser to the VSF Premier League Grand Final.

In bright sunshine and on a pitch like a bowling green, both sides produced excellent competitive soccer in an even first half.

Geelong's propensity to shoot from long distance, while exciting enough to watch, did not trouble NESL

keeper Khalid Sharifi.

Charles Fitzpatrick, Mladen Spasojevic, David Lunn and David Jaynes all tried their luck for the WVSA, while at the other end Arni Barolli got round Simon Flanagan and tried to squeeze the ball under keeper Dean Munyard who managed to drop on it before it entered the net.

There was no score till almost an hour had been played, when the WVSA defence did not close down Serkan Aktar who was able to shoot across Munyard and inside the post.

Pero Prodanovic made a good run into the area for the WVSA but could not get a shot away as he fell, and a lack of co-ordination between the strikers squandered a couple of half chances.

The WVSA was still in the game until Dominic Scharippa had his shot blocked by Munyard only for Barolli to poke in the rebound from close range.

A long ball was headed over his own keeper by a Shepparton defender and

David Jaynes slid in at the far post but the shot went into the side netting.

Then with only a couple of minutes left Barolli hit the bar with a header and Scharippa scored the third and final goal.

The NESL played an excellent team game throughout with no stars but lots of effort from the eleven starters and all three substitutes.

The big support who made the journey from Shepparton were in good voice at the end as skipper Wayne Skippen and coach Jimmy Kalafatis lifted the trophy.

Over the piece the WVSA could have no complaints about the result, but they put on a good show for the Geelong fans.

Teams:

NESL: Khalid Sharifi, Mark Georgiou, Carl Trigila, Arni Barolli, Adrian Giuliani, Serkan Aktas, Wayne Skippen, Kevin Garrioch, Michael Craig, Ross Panebianco, Dominic Scharippa, Michael Chang, Donny Stojanovski, James Coady, Michael Amadei, David Davkovski

WVSA: Dean Munyard, Jovo Vuletic, Mark Linney, David Jaynes, Simon Flanagan, Pero Prodanovic, Billy Botelho, David Lunn, Mladen Spasojevic, Charles Fitzpatrick, Darren Nelson, Artur Karras, Mark Baszczys, Everett Nelson, Ismail Ali

'Ali' Ndiaye attracts Sydney Utd

Youth Profile

Teenage scoring sensation, Alioune Ndiaye, aka Ali, who just completed a short stint in the Singapore League, is currently trialling with Sydney United in an attempt to break into the National Soccer League.

Interestingly, this would be Alioune's second romance with United and the young lad is hopeful of making the grade this time around.

According to him, however, "If I don't play in Sydney United at the end of the trials, I will join any other teams that invite me. Nonetheless, my first love still remains United and I'm now training very hard to keep my form and hoping to break into the first team, if picked into the team"

Ali's mentor in his high school days at Canterbury B.H.S, Mr Halpin is not surprised that the ebony-skinned teenager is now fulfilling the promise on the field of play. "I will like to say something about Ali. Ali was a regular at the Canterbury Boys High School first grade soccer team for the past three years. During the time, he spearheaded the side's premiership victories and has twice been voted as Most Valuable Player".

Alioune also has semi-pro results to back up his claims. He scored a total of 19 goals in 20 games while with Parramatta Eagles reserves. His performance clearly indicated that the prodigious striker was banging loudly on the doors of the first team.

Alioune was finally given a run of five senior games and he banged in three goals. During his short stint with the first team, Alioune showed enough promise to raise the eyebrows of a certain Ballamodou Conde.

"This boy is young but very good," said Bulls' midfield general Ballamodou, who was playing for Parramatta Eagles earlier this year.

"That was why I immediately informed coach Moey Yok Ham about Ali. I believe he will be very useful to Gombak."

Bulls' chairman John Yap echoed Ballamodou's sentiments.

"We could see in recent training sessions that Ali is proving to be an excellent forward," said Yap. "I have to say I am quite impressed with him."

While in Singapore, the Australian teenage scoring sensation was quietly wheeled-in to add weight to the Bulls' fire power.



Teenage sensation Alioune Ndiaye

Last month, against the Cobras, 19 year-old Alioune Badana Ndiaye made his NTJC Income S-League debut as one of the youngest foreign players ever to be registered in the Singaporean League first team.

With Moroccan star Martegua Abherrazzak, still firing blanks, Alioune, or Ali, as he is affectionately-known in Gombak Stadium, is seen as the solution to Gombak's recent goals' drought. Alioune arrived in Singapore in June left his mark in the S-League.

"I want to score lots of goals and win things with Gombak," said the Senegal-

born teenager who was raised in Australia.

Leaving his parents and four siblings behind in Sydney, young Alioune believed then that the S-League was the perfect stage for him to showcase his abilities.

"I am very fast and skilful," warned Alioune, "I could score and go past many S-League defenders with my speed."

Confident words from a teenager especially when one considers the S-League boasts quality defenders like Nenad Barina, Mr Non Rohman, Sead Muratovic and another Aussie Daniel Bennett.



David Jaynes of WVSA (blue shirt) and NESL's Carl Trigila vie for the ball.

ACT LIFTS SCHOOLS' SOCCER TOURNEY

The Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Schoolboys soccer team broke a 12-year drought when they won the 2001 National Secondary Schools Soccer championships held in Gosford last week.

The team went undefeated during the competition and lead the goalscoring count and conceded the least number of goals in their four wins and one draw.

Five ACT players were named in the Australian team and a further in the Australian

shadow team. The ACT's Wayne Heath also won the coveted "Peter Grguric" medal for the Player of the Tournament from Simon Bernadino (SA) and Chris Tadrosse (NSW).

The final positions in the tournament were not decided until the last day of matches which saw NSW, Western Australia and the ACT with a chance of taking out first place.

In the end however, the ACT beat WA with a convincing 4-0 win to take the championships, followed by

NSW in 2nd place and Victoria coming third.

The Australian team announced at the end of the tournament is as follows:

Nathan Denham, Wayne Heath, Alex Brosque, Robbie Cattanaach, Matt Menser (ACT); Michael Arena, Matthew Osman, Chris Tadrosse, Adam Kwasnick (NSW), Steve Esposito, Robert Carchedi, Steve Mancevski (Vic), Thomas Willis, Chris Burley (Qld), Simon Bernadino (SA), Shane Nunes (WA).

2001 VICTORIA PREMIER LEAGUE GOLD MEDAL AWARDS

Knop rallies troops in Victoria



By Bert van Bedaf

Like a coach before a grand final, newly elected chairman of Soccer Australia Ian Knop rallied the true believers to his cause at last week's Victorian Premier League's best and fairest awards.

If predecessors David Hill was abrasive, Basil Scarcella proved to be a prevaricator and Labbozzetta was on the nose, Knop is motivational and imbued with stirring rhetoric, which might or might not be translated into concrete achievements.

"This is a big role," he said about his surprise elevation. "I'm humbled, I'm challenged and I'm excited."

He paid tribute to the king makers who had helped him getting on the throne.

"I could not have got there without a number of key and significant things happening.

One of those is that for the first time the good guys got up to be counted and Joe (Brondolino) and his colleagues (including Jeff Kennett) are to be applauded for it." He then switched to vaudeville, turning on the pride and passion for the code.

"A line is drawn in the sand and it says 'enough is enough'. We want to move forward. We have great challenges (ahead). We parade around saying how great we are, but really in many ways we're a joke when it matters in the real commercial world," Knop said.

"In every country who are our major trading partners soccer is the major sport. Here we kill AFL, Rugby League and Rugby Union with kids playing (soccer). But we don't translate it where it matters (into a prominent national league).

"AFL is a great game, but not that many kids play it around Australia.

Until we get our act in the market game right, we'll always be struggling.

We must be committed to move forward to make this game (soccer) truly great.

"We have a lot to do. We have our field dreams, it's

called soccer and our passion for it, how it should be played and how it should be conducted.

"We need to make this game what it really should be — the premier sport in Australia. We've taken a huge leap forward, but we still have a lot to do. It's about taking small steps for big gains," he said.

There was thunderous applause, but the echo left the question in its wake, "When is it finally going to happen?"

One of Knop's immediate suggestions has been the formation of an Asian 10-team Super League within two years. If he pulls it off, it would be a great step forward. His appointment of Nick Greiner as SA president has also been widely applauded. The resignation of chief executive David Woolley was not unexpected.

AWARD WINNERS

Victorian player of the year was won jointly to Altona Magic's Zoran Todorovski and Preston captain Chris Emsovski. Coach of the year went to Port Melbourne's Harry



Ian Knop: "I'm humbled, I'm challenged and I'm excited."

Chalkitis, while Port striker Peter Psarros won top scorer with 15 goals.

Heidelberg's Jim Kourtis won goal keeper of the year as well as the media's Bill Fleming award. Bulleen's young 'keeper Michael Theoklitos won the U21 player of the year.

The Weinstein medal for the best U16 player was also awarded jointly to one of Victoria promising stars in (ex VIS) Spase Dilevski, who is serving an apprenticeship at Dutch champion PSV Eindhoven, and to the talented young women's player Selin Kuralay of Box Hill Inter. Referee of the year went to Bruno D'Aniello, who was in charge of the Premier League's grand final last Sunday.

Winner-and-Loser in one Week

A week might be a short time in politics. In soccer, it means you can turn up a winner one day and end up being a loser the next.

Port Melbourne coach Harry Chalkitis was voted coach of the year with a possible grand final win lying a few days ahead of him. But that prize eluded him last Sunday after his side lost 4-3 on penalties to Heidelberg United, coached by last season's coach of the year, Peter Ollerton.

Nevertheless, from an individual point of view winning best coach will always be a moment of great achievement for one of the most likeable coaches around.

After five seasons at Bentleigh Greens, Chalkitis moved across to Port Melbourne. The Sharks coach was genuinely surprised to have won the award, although he was considered the favorite given Port's outstanding performance under him this season.

The Sharks finished third bottom last season and narrowly avoided relegation. They won the VPL's minor premiership this season, ahead of Heidelberg United, who finished second.

"This is a fantastic individual award," Chalkitis said.

"It gives me the opportunity to coach a Victorian state side, something which I've always wanted to do. I'd like to put an attractive team on the park that plays entertaining football, something spectators want to come and watch," he said.



Peter Ollerton: Coach of VPL 2001 Champions Heidelberg United.

HONOUR FOR PRESTON CAPTAIN

Preston captain Chris Emsovski came behind to become joint winner of the Victorian Premier League 2001 Player of the year gold medal last week.

Emsovski hardly featured in the early voting but stormed home in the later rounds to tie with Altona Magic's Zoran Todorovski on 21 votes.

"Zoran and I have never played together, but we've been mates for years.

I'm happy to win the award with him. It's a great honor to win this award," Emsovski said.

Heidelberg's George Georgiadis and Port Melbourne's Jean-Paul Knezevic finished joint second on 20 votes.

Emsovski, 29, started the season at Bulleen but returned to Preston after nine rounds into the season.

"I started thinking my future may be elsewhere. Bulleen was very professional about it. They said, 'Look, Preston need help' and I came back," Emsovski said.

A Preston player since the juniors, Emsovski returned to a club in crisis and close to relegation. There were changes at committee and coaching level. Vlado Vanis returned to the club, charged with saving

them to keep their place in the VPL.

"We were on the brink of relegation," Emsovski said. "Preston appointed me captain after two weeks. I had been captain before at the club and it was just amazing to come all that way again. To remain in the league was our goal," he said.

Preston finished the season in style, beating former champion Green Gully 3-1 at home to stay in the league.

"To win this award is tremendous," Emsovski said. "I've been invited to this function for six years in a row and never won anything. Now I've had a bit of fortune in my life. This is a big highlight of my career," he said.

Emsovski has been playing in the VPL for ten years. He also enjoyed a season with Preston in the national soccer league in the early 1990s. If the chance presented itself, he'd have another go at the NSL.

"When Preston was in the NSL, I made a few appearances. If there's an opportunity (to play in the national league), I'll knock on the door. All I need is a good pre-season under my belt," Emsovski said.

An attacking midfielder, Emsovski had two seasons

with North Geelong. He then went to Altona Magic and won the Victorian championship in 1995. He returned to Preston

for three seasons, then played at Bulleen for one season and a few rounds before returning to Preston.

MAGIC GOLD FOR ZORAN

The remarkable story of Altona Magic striker Zoran Todorovski is one of overcoming the biggest of all odds. It is a true story of claiming life over death.

It is why winning the gold medal, jointly with Preston player Chris Emsovski, holds a special meaning for the 30-year-old Todorovski, who battled cancer five years ago and conquered the deadly disease.

"The award is the pinnacle of my career. I've never received anything like this, such a high value. This is a very high honor for me," Todorovski said.

Five years ago he wasn't sure if he would live, let alone ever play again.

"I knew I had something wrong with me. X-rays determined what it was.

It was a situation of one day I was here and the next day I was not. I had a life threatening illness. I had a tumor in the thighbone," Todorovski recalled the shock when the doctor told him he had a tumor in his leg.

"I had an operation to remove the tumor and the gap was refilled. After that it was matter of rehabilitation, a lot of exercises, to get back into the swing of things. It took a year-and-a-half," said Todorovski, who was 25 at the time.

"It was a big shock and a bigger shock when the doctor said I wouldn't be playing for a year. I didn't think I could live with that. But I had to go through the process," he said.

His illness was diagnosed when Todorovski was making a switch from the national league to

the Victorian Premier League.

"It happened when I finished at Eastern Pride (in Morwell) and started playing at Bentleigh Greens in the VPL in 1996. I played the 1995-96 season in the NSL and in 1996 I went to Bentleigh," he said.

Now he is on top and savoring every moment of it.

"It has been sheer determination. I wanted to play again. It's the love of it. From the age of six, when I started playing, I've always loved the sport and I don't think I could ever get away from it. And after two years off, it made me even more determined to get back after such a great setback," Todorovski said.

Todorovski started at Altona Magic as a junior and moved into the senior ranks. He switched to Westgate in the first division for a time, then went to Eastern Pride before joining Bentleigh Greens. After his illness he went back to Altona. He aims to have another crack at the NSL.

"Ever player harbors the ambition to play in the NSL. I've already played in it for a year. Unfortunately my circumstances stopped me from continuing that," Todorovski said.

"If I'd get a chance again to prove to a club that I am capable of playing in that league than by all means I'll look into it and see if some fruition comes out of it. If it doesn't work out, I'll continue playing in the Premier League and whatever needs to be done to keep participating in the sport I love," he said.



STANMORE HAWKS SOCCER CLUB

Applications are now invited for the following positions in the respective competitions:

NSW Super League

First Grade, Under 21s and Under 18s

Youth League

Youth Development and Head Coach Under 13, Under 14, Under 15 and Under 16

All Applicants must be experienced and accredited with The NSW Soccer Federation.

APPLICATIONS CLOSE 4 SEPTEMBER 2001.

Applications in writing to the Secretary, Stanmore Hawks Soccer Club

56-58 Stanmore Road, Stanmore 2048.
Enquiries S. Economides 9642-1781, 0419 686 569
Fax: 9516-1679

Letters to the Editor

Home truths about Oz Soccer

Dear Sir,

This is an open letter to all those who think that Soccer is the sleeping giant of Australian sport. WAKE UP!!

To mainstream Australia, Soccer is "wogball" or at best "kidsball".

The National Soccer League will always be a feeder league for European clubs, not primarily because the best players will want to leave to make more money, but because they want to play where the game is an important part of the social fabric, not where it is considered secondary to the other football codes as in

Australia.

Those in power at Soccer Australia, and those who would like to be, are projecting crowd figures, of 15-20,000 crowd per game. GET REAL!

It seems to me that there is no-one challenging this belief in the sleeping giant we are just arguing the semantics of how, and who should do the waking-up. As they would say on the fast show, It's a load of old bollocks.

Another point on attendances; even the teams at the foot of Italy's Serie A struggle to bring in 10,000.

Let's look at the other

games and their performance in the attendance stakes, Rugby Union - how many do they get at club games? 500-1000, but no we don't count those, you only look at the sell-out half-a-dozen games.

In a year, for Super 12 or International hardly a level playing field, when Soccer Australia is looking at 3 or 4 games and week in Sydney and expecting these 15-20,000 figures. You've to be joking.

Rugby League, well they are hardly setting the world on fire with their crowds and that's with 20 times the media coverage of Soccer and 95% of that, positive

plus it is entrenched in the psyche of those who grew up with it.

Aussie Rules in Sydney, 1 team, population 4,000,000 you can't get a crowd once-a-fortnight? If they're not winning they don't.

Basketball 2 teams, one game a week, 10,000 is a full house. No contest.

Right! So what I am saying is, be realistic, aim for crowds of around 5-10,000 have stadiums that cater for those sort of No's, not go to stadiums which have a capacity 3-4 times your normal (max) crowd and please play at football stadiums, not as in the case of Northern Spirit on a cricket oval.

Robbie Slater take note, if you really loved the game, you wouldn't have signed to play at a ground where the fans can't see the game satisfactorily get thee to a football stadium, or here's one fan who won't be at your home games.

When you talk about taking the ethnic clubs out of Soccer, the only new, supposedly non ethnic backed club that has done well in Perth, and if you look at their fan base it is 80% Anglo Saxon, that's not ethnic?

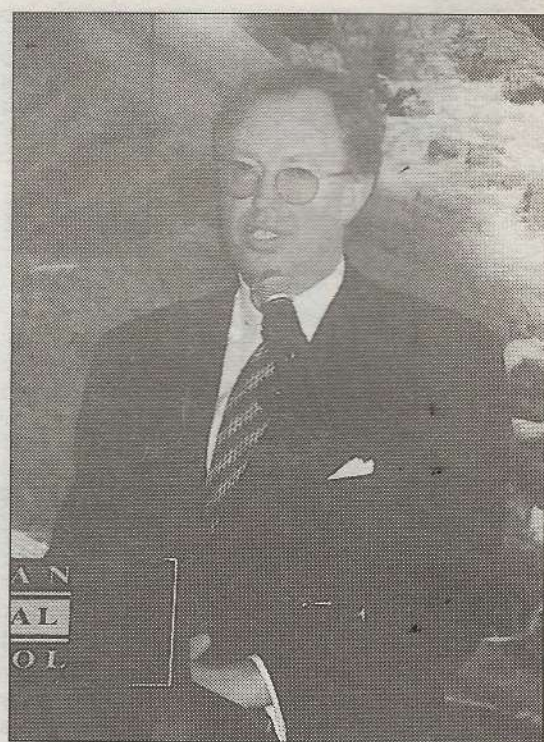
Northern Spirit, the bubble has burst, Parramatta haven't even had a bubble, all they did was change their name from Sydney Utd, their attendances dropped about 70% and they went from Minor Premiers to also rans. Great Work.

My own background is Anglo-Saxon and I have always felt welcome at Sydney Olympic, Marconi or Sydney Utd. The only

people who would feel unwelcome in my opinion, would be the Xenophobes and I'm not sure we want them at our games.

The good thing about the game for me is the product. I go to around 15 games a year and am rarely disappointed, they are players of quality and teams who are playing attractive attacking football, I enjoy it.

So please let's stop kidding ourselves that Soccer is going to take the country by storm. Let's play it for the love of it, watch it for the love of it, coach it for the



Ian Knop: New Soccer Australia Chairman.

love of it, administer it for the love of it and not have delusions of grandeur as to its prospects as a money making industry (ask the President of Real Madrid).
Piss off the bean-counters,

enjoy the game and realise that our best players will nearly, always go overseas and take pleasure from their success.

A.C. Baber, Caringbah, NSW.

WANTED: VPL LINE-UPS

Dear Sir,

In announcing the price rise last week you expressed your intention to give readers "more value for their money."

I have a suggestion that would certainly make ABSW more valuable to me and, I believe, many other Victorian readers. The suggestion is to again include line-ups in match reports of Victorian Premier League matches.

My collection of ABSW goes back to just before the commencement of the 1990-91 NSL season.

I was recently able to help a long-serving

Premier League player work out how many games he has played. Much of the information came from the line-ups published in ABSW over the last decade.

I know that space is short, the perennial problem in newspapers, but the line-ups help to form a vital part of the record that a specialist paper like ABSW creates as it brings readers up to date news of their sport.

I hope you'll give favourable consideration to my suggestion.

Your Sincerely,
John Punshon
The Basin, VIC.

The lesson in Labbozzetta's ouster

Dear Sir,

My prophecy on Tony Labbozzetta's fate as S.A. Chairman (ABSW, January) has come true.

The fate of the remaining Labbozzetta loyalists remains to be seen. The argument that T.L. Peter Grey and Co could lead Oz Soccer into the elusive promised land was ludicrous because they were always part of the problem.

Unfortunately but not surprisingly, the revamped board of S.A. is top heavy with people with no real Soccer background or knowledge.

As well as being the best successful football code in Australia Soccer is the only one with this ongoing informal policy where competent ex-players with proven management and business skills are excluded from holding key administration positions.

Yes there are some ex-players in Soccer administration but most of them are no-hopers or timeservers.

It may be a surprise, to some and a frightening proposition to others, but there are a number of competent ex-players with good management and business skills who could only advance the cause of Oz Soccer.

Now is the right time to reach that to these people. For the long Oz Soccer has suffered from one decisions made by self seeking



Tony Labbozzetta

opportunists wheeler dealers, and charlatans whose total knowledge of the game would fit on the back of the worlds smallest postage stamp.

As much as Oz Soccer needs the support of big business it also needs an infusion of competent people with a REAL knowledge and background in the game.

R. Melor, Bondi, NSW.

IS THIS THE GREEK SOCCER WEEKLY?

Dear Sir,

I read your paper regularly and am a big fan but one thing really disappoints me. I've noticed that all of your Youth Profiles are of Greek players and very poorly-written.

Do you edit these articles at all and why always Greek players?? I know by your name Mr Economos, that you are Greek and must surely harbour some pride for your culture, but I am not buying the 'Greek Soccer Weekly'.

You should assign your writer, Mark Stavroulakis, to write about good young Australian talent regardless of their ethnic background.

Not all the good soccer



players in Australia are Greek, in fact, far from it.

It's a real shame that I feel I must write a letter for you

to change this, but this sort of bias and poor journalism really detracts from an otherwise excellent publication like yours.

Josh Deane, Albion Park, NSW.

Missing English Fixtures

Dear Sir,

I was checking the draws of the English Premier League of your paper and I noticed that the following games were missing. I will appreciate it if you can please give the actual dates of these:

Aston Villa v Newcastle; Chelsea v Ipswich; Charlton v Tottenham; Fulham v Chelsea; Leeds v Everton; Liverpool v Blackburn; Sunderland v Tottenham; Tottenham v Chelsea; West Ham v Chelsea.

I really enjoy reading your paper and I'll keep buying it because it's very interesting, please keep up the good work.

Frank Sultama, Sydney

Editor's Note: We regret the oversight. An amended version of the affected sections of the fixtures are now reproduced on Pg 12 in this edition. Thanks.

OFF THE CROSSBAR



By Allan Crisp

CLOUD OF DOUBT OVER FORCE TRIO

Adelaide City Force is preparing for the new NSL season with hopes high, but with a dark cloud of uncertainty hovering over the availability of their two most experienced players and their first choice goalkeeper.

Zoran Matic called his squad back into training last Monday for the first session of a six-day weekly ritual designed to whip his charges into a level of fitness that should leave City's opponents breathless.

However, Matic would be breathing more easily if he could be assured that his captain Aurelio Vidmar, his key striker Claudio Pelosi and goalkeeper Adrian Cagali were all certain to be part of his grand plan.

As things stand, Vidmar left for Japan with the Socceroo squad last week without having agreed to a new contract, while Pelosi, despite having signed to resume with City before he returned to Italy, could also be lost to the club. Matic admitted that Pelosi was not certain to come back for a third season with Adelaide City because of his close family ties in Italy.

But, rumours were rife that the forward forager was not pleased with the performance based wage package offered by the Force and that he had received tempting offers from a Malaysian club.

Matic said he was unaware of such developments, but added, "What can you do if a player doesn't want to come back? — You can't get him to come back with a gun at his head."

At press time, Cagali was expected to return to Adelaide, but is awaiting results of the trials he underwent with Sheffield United.

Should the Blades offer Cagali a contract, the Force would be searching for a new custodian.

Meanwhile, Matic denied interstate reports that City had approached former Youth Socceroo goalkeeper Vince Matassa, who is currently with English club Woking.

Matassa is reportedly sidelined for eight weeks after snapping a tendon in a finger.

The good news for City was the arrival at training of New Zealand international Jeff Campbell and the return of Matthew Kemp, who was back in the Force fold after a forgettable 15-month stint with Italian Serie C club Spal.

Preparation for the Force season will be intense with Sundays, the only days off training as Matic sets his benchmark for a tilt at another finals campaign.

Last season City failed to reach the top six for the first time in 12 campaigns and the wily coach aims to correct that fault, which was believed to

be caused by the lack of a quality lead up to the season kick-off.

Next month will be full-on for the Force with a tour of the South Pacific in the pipeline — a trip that is envisaged to include five matches in 11-days against the national teams of Fiji (twice), Samoa, American Samoa and Tonga.

"It should be an ideal preparation for us," Matic said. Some people might think the games will be easy, but we are not expecting that. "What did the Socceroos beat Fiji by in the World Cup qualifiers a few months ago — 2-0?"

"The conditions will be hot and steamy and should sort out the players who are lacking in conditioning," Matic added.

The trip is due to begin on September 2 and will be followed by an away game against Marconi on September 14. Negotiations are proceeding for a City match with South Melbourne in Melbourne on September 16, but Matic and his Marconi counterpart Lee Sterrey had discussions about a triangular series in Sydney if a suitable third team was interested in the concept.

TALL ORDER

South Australia's Premier League and State League hotshots, Blue Eagles and Birkalla are expected to tackle NSL heavyweights Perth Glory and Parramatta Power in a challenge series next month.

Glory will clash with Blue Eagles at the Marden Sports Complex on Friday, September 7 and will meet Parramatta at Camden Reserve the following night. Birkalla, which clinched the State League minor championship with two rounds to spare, will play the Power on Sunday, September 9.

FLAMES BURNING

Ambitious Premier League newcomers the Olympic FC Flames are close to securing visits from NSL giants Sydney Olympic and South Melbourne for a series of games against Adelaide City Force and their own, Branko Milosevic coached team.

Olympic FC secretary Andrew Haralampopoulos said his club was planning a weekend of double header programs to be played at Thebarton Oval from September 21-23.

Meanwhile, Milosevic, in his capacity of Olympic FC player-coach, warned his final two Premier League opponents Blue Eagles and Port Lion Pirates not to expect an easy passage towards the end of the season.

"We may be out of the running for a finals berth and we are safe from relegation, but we will be giving no favours to anyone," the former Socceroo midfielder said.

Olympic's last minor round game has crucial relegation implications for Port Lion, but Milosevic vowed to field his strongest available team.

"Our aim is to finish in the highest position possible in our first season in the Premier League, so we will be going in hard against the Blue Eagles and Port Lion," he said.

BRIGHT FUTURE

Para Hills are now Knights under shining lights at their impressive Paddocks complex at Bridge Road.

Three years worth of effort was realised last Friday night when Para Hills's new \$80,000 floodlight system switch was activated.

Which just goes to prove the adage — "Many hands make light work."

NAME WANTED

We have the Socceroos, the Matildas, the Young Socceroos (Under 20's) and the Joey's, Under 17's).

Shortly, a new national representative team will emerge — the Under 16's boys squad.

The current nicknames are catchy and have been well accepted by the general public, while in some cases, they have even been copied (the Hockeyroos) for instance.

Finding a tag for the latest addition to the soccer family will be testing, but someone surely will leap to a conclusion.



Claudio Pelosi right: Quitting Adelaide City Force.

NO MISNOMER

ABSW reader Vic Heath from Duffy, ACT, has hit on a hobby-horse in claiming that the word "Soccer" should be dropped by Soccer Australia in favor of Football Australia.

The word, "soccer" is NOT an Americanised tag. It can in fact be traced to England where it is still frequently used by business organisations and clubs throughout the UK.

"The Soccer Shop," 73 Churchgate, Leicester, trades under that name to sell its club merchandise.

And, "Soccer Scene" the largest sports store in London, is not about to change its trading title.

Pick up a "Shoot" or "Match" magazine and the word can often be found in those and other English publications. I have before me a copy of the bobbing and weaving football magazine, "Four Four Two" which has above its masthead the words — "Britain's Biggest Monthly Soccer Magazine."

The man to blame for inventing the word "soccer" is the frightfully English, Charles Wreford-Brown, who played for Oxford University and England in the 1890's.

It all came about when he was asked by an acquaintance if he would be playing "rugger" that day.

"No," replied Wreford-Brown, "I prefer, soccer." The word "Soccer" is a corruption of "association," the original name of the game being, "Association Football."

Has Vic Heath considered the confusion that could arise if his name change were to be adopted?

With varying degrees of credibility in Australia, the AFL and its associated bodies and rugby league, rugby union and grid iron — all call their games, "football."

As the global game, soccer, which makes more use of the feet than any of the aforementioned past times, can lay legitimate claim to being the "real football."

But, Vic, the fact is that Aussie rules is indigenous to Australia, but the use of the word "soccer" to describe our game, is not exclusive to Australia.

Allan Crisp can be heard on the 5RPH (1197AM) Marshall Thompson Homes/Pacific Real Estate Breakfast Soccer Show each Tuesday from 7am-8.30am along with Croydon Kings coach Phil Scardigno, Peter Millar, The Advertiser Soccer writer Meno Toutsidis and producer Robbie Popplestone.

Former Australian international and Adelaide City coach John Perin and Crisp gather for the SOS (Soccer On Sunday) program each Sabbath from 8.30am-9.30am to present the latest local, overseas and interstate news, information and interviews.

Langone injury trigger ACT League reform

By Graham Cooke

The serious injury to Belconnen United's Denis Langone has prompted calls for reform of the ACT Premiership, with a meeting of coaches from the nine clubs held last week at the Italo-Australian Club.

Among suggestions discussed is a limit on the number of NSL players each club can field, and a new look at insurance provisions currently covering players.

The meeting was organised by Denis' father, and the coach of Belconnen, Oscar Langone. "This has been a terrible time for Denis, his family and the club," he said.

"But if we can bring about much-needed reforms, then some good will come of it."

Langone said he would push for a limit of one NSL player per-club. There will be support from some of the clubs that operate on an entirely amateur basis, but it is likely the limit will be higher, if accepted at all.

Canberra Deakin would be the most effected by this restric-

tion, with six players who have appeared in the NSL at one time or another in their line-up. However, just three of these appeared in the competition last season.

Capital City Suns, Canberra Olympic and Gungahlin Juventus all contain players who have made NSL appearances in the recent past.

Langone said there should be recognition that the ACT Premiership was a development competition with the main purpose of preparing youngsters for the NSW Premier League and the NSL. "There is very little point in loading teams down with established players," he said.

There was also a need to review the Premiership's player insurance arrangements, where cover is only up to \$3000. "That's a joke when you see medical bills these days," he said.

"Maybe Soccer Canberra can't afford any more, but players should be made fully aware of the limits so they can decide either to accept the risk, or take out their own additional insurance."



South Australia

Premier League Results

ROUND 20

PREMIER LEAGUE

Port Pirie Spirit (Christopoulos)	1	Blue Eagles (Artone, Brooks, Sergi)	3
Playford Patriots (Anastasiou 3)	3	Port Lion (Misailidis)	1
Croydon Kings	0	Modbury Jets (Trimboli, Harris)	2
Raiders	0	Metro Stars (Day)	1
Campbelltown (Udagawa, Signoriello)	2	White City	0
Olympic FC	0	Adelaide City (Thompson, Saraceno)	2

STATE LEAGUE

Enfield Falcons	0	Birkalla (Tsekis, McGregor, Westervelt)	3
Para Hills Knights (Breton, Francis, Kelly, Waine)	4	Cobras (Hills)	1
Panthers (Kwas)	1	Salisbury Apaches (Groth)	1
Cumberland (Stuart, Coombs, Iog)	3	Northern Demons (Cerrachio)	1
Hills Hawks (Maxwell, Harvey, Keegan)	3	Seaford Surfers	0
Noarlunga	0	Western Strikers (Perrotta 2)	2

ROUND 21

PREMIER LEAGUE

FRIDAY, AUGUST 17

Modbury Jets v Playford Patriots.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 18

Adelaide City v Campbelltown

White City v Raiders

Metro Stars v Croydon Kings

Port Lion v Port Pirie Spirit

Blue Eagles v Olympic FC

STATE LEAGUE

Enfield Falcons v Birkalla

Para Hills Knights v Cobras

Panthers v Salisbury Apaches

Cumberland v Northern Demons

Hills Hawks v Seaford Surfers

Noarlunga v Western Strikers



Adrian Cagali: Awaiting an offer from Sheffield United.



David Woolley (right) with Brazilian legend Pele, at a recent corporate function in Sydney.

SA seeks new CEO as Woolley bows out

Soccer Australia Board have commenced an intensive search for a successor to estwhile chief executive, David Woolley, who became the latest face to quit the soccer-ruling body in the curret wave of high-level personnel changes.

Soccer Australia Chairman, Mr. Ian Knop, announced over the weekend that David Woolley, had tendered his resignation.

Mr. Knop said it was with regret that he accepted the resignation of Mr. Woolley, who has given six years of outstanding service to the game.

"He (David) has been Chief Executive of Soccer Australia through a difficult

and challenging period in the game's history," said Mr. Knop.

"He has done an excellent job and has many achievements of which he can be very proud."

"David has succeeded in more than doubling sponsorship revenue for Soccer Australia through a number of important agreements with companies such as LG Electronics, Channel 7, Adidas, Telstra and Qantas."

"I have greatly enjoyed

working with David in my roles as Chairman of the Canberra Cosmos and Deputy Chairman of the National Soccer League over the past few years and have found him to be a true professional who has always had the good of soccer very much at heart."

"David has decided to seek another challenge. I, and all stakeholders, players and supporters of the game wish him well," Knop concluded.

Facial injury ends Langone's career

By Graham Cooke

Denis Langone will never play soccer again after an incident in an ACT Premiership match in which three teeth were knocked out and his jaw fractured, his brother, Leo, said last week.

- And in an angry and emotional plea from the Gold Coast, where he is now at university, the former Cosmos NSL player urged Soccer Canberra to take action to ensure incidents like this never occur again.

"It was a savage blow, people have been ringing me since last weekend saying it was one of the worst knocks they have seen on a soccer field. If it had been to the temple rather than the jaw he could have suffered brain damage," he said.

"The surgeon thought that Denis must have been playing rugby to get such an injury."

"How could he play again? This isn't like a broken leg; there are lots of small bones in the jaw than have to knit together. Denis couldn't head a ball without fear of more damage being done."

"They have replaced the teeth, but it's a question of whether they can reconnect the nerves and that

will take another operation. If they can't, the teeth will drop out in a couple of years and he will have to have false ones.

"Denis may not have been a superstar, but he loved his soccer, and would probably have gone on playing for many years. That's been denied him now."

Denis Langone was playing for Belconnen United in the Premiership match with Canberra Deakin when the incident occurred in a clash with Deakin's Andy Ravanello. He was taken to hospital and kept in overnight.

Leo Langone is currently playing for Gold Coast City in the Queensland State League while studying at Griffith University. The brothers' father, Oscar, is Belconnen United's coach.



Leo Langone: Elder brother to injured Dennis.

JAPAN TACKLE SOCCEROOS WITHOUT EURO STARS

Japan will tackle Australia on Wednesday (tomorrow) without star midfielder Hidetoshi Nakata and five other internationals based with foreign clubs, the Japan Football Association said over the weekend.

"It is an important period for them. Five of the six players have joined new clubs recently and they have to concentrate on their jobs, so I didn't call them," French head coach Philippe Troussier said.

"It is a big chance for Japan that they play for overseas clubs. Nakata has played some big games there, and others will have their experiences within the following six months."

"The national team for the World Cup next year is now

90 percent complete, and it will improve further when they gain experiences from big games overseas," Troussier added.

Nakata recently moved from AS Roma to Italian rivals Parma, Shinji Ono signed up with Dutch club Feyenoord, Junichi Inamoto joined English giants Arsenal and Akinori Nishizawa signed for Bolton Wanderers of the English premier league.

Naohiro Takahara plays for the top Argentine side Boca Juniors.

Troussier also said he did not summon Hiroshi Nanami, the winner of the most valuable player award when Japan won the Asian Cup in October last year, as the Jubilo Iwata midfielder was recovering from a recent operation.

Goalkeepers: Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi (Yokohama), Ryota Tsuzuki (Gamba Osaka)

Defenders: Toshihiro Hattori (Iwata), Ryuzo Morioka (Shimizu), Yasuhiro Hato (Yokohama), Tsuneyasu Miyamoto (Gamba Osaka), Naoki Matsuda (Yokohama), Koji Nakata (Kashima)

Midfielders: Hiroaki Morishima (Cerezo Osaka), Teruyoshi Ito (Shimizu), Daisuke Oku (Iwata), Kazuyuki Toda (Shimizu), Tomokazu Myojin (Kashiwa), Shunsuke Nakamura (Yokohama)

Forwards: Masashi Nakayama (Iwata), Takayuki Suzuki (Kashima), Tatsuhiko Kubo (Hiroshima), Atsushi Yanagisawa (Kashima)



Hidetoshi Nakata: Won't file-out against Australia in tomorrow's friendly showdown.



Brad Hassell

Hassell ends Adelaide City romance

By Allan Crisp

The uncertainty surrounding the Adelaide City Force squad makeup for the new NSL season increased over the weekend when midfielder Brad Hassell walked out of the club after attending only one training session.

Hassell left after meeting with

Force coach Zoran Matic, the day after the initial session on the Monday night.

Hassell took his complaint to the Professional Football Association, which, through its media and communications representative Patrick Mangan, issued the

following statement.

"The club (Adelaide City Force) is in default of his (Bradley Hassell) contract so he has exercised his right to terminate his contract. "Should the club wish to dispute this, it is at liberty to do so."



SOCCER NEEDS FRESH START, KNOP DECLARES

New Soccer Australia Chairman, Ian Knop has declared that his administration is putting in place a 'seachange' in soccer aimed at giving it a fresh start. Speaking with Sportsworld over the weekend, the new soccer supremo also issued a strong warning to immediate past SA chairman, Tony Labbozzetta not to interfere with the 'sea change' at Soccer Australia, and accept his defeat in good faith.



Labbozzetta is understood to be still contemplating his future in the game after being deposed by Knop in a vote of stakeholders the previous week.

Knop said initiatives such as the appointment of former New South Wales Premier, Nick Greiner as Soccer Australia President, and the independent audit of SA's books help to restore the administration's standing in Australia.

"We have been perceived as a joke

because of our continual in-fighting' and not being able to relate to commercial, corporate Australia effectively, appropriately and sincerely.

Knop said he wanted to improve his administration's communications strategy to achieve 'small wins and big gains'.

On the fate of the man he eased-out in sur-

prising circumstances to mount the saddle, Knop stated that, "Tony Labbozzetta is a very nice, charming man. Tony Labbozzetta has worked very hard for the game over three decades, whether you love him, whether you hate him, or whether you have no opinion on him - which would be hard."

"You must respect his passion, and I think

Tony has played a nice part in the game. But the stakeholders have spoken, and they said - Tony, please move on. We need a fresh start."

"I think if Tony's wise, he'll see this as a sea-change for good. Tony is a masterful politician, but every politician has his day," said Knop.

.. scraps NSL board

Following a meeting of the National Soccer League Clubs late last Friday, the Chairman of Soccer Australia Ian Knop advised that the NSL Executive be disbanded, and an NSL Members Commission established in its place.

The NSL Commission will be comprised of a 14-man board, with each member being a senior representative of the affiliate NSL clubs, and charged with the responsibility of guiding the National League to become the dominant sporting competition in Australia.

The Commission will meet on a monthly basis, with the location being rotated according to the cities represented in the NSL, and the Chairman of Soccer Australia and/or a Soccer Australia Board member will be present at each meeting.

"This is a significant step forward for the National League as it is critical for the clubs to take control of their own future," said Soccer Australia Chairman Ian

Knop.

"The new NSL Commission will show the supporters, stakeholders and corporate community that, together with the Board of Soccer Australia, we can progress our premier competition in Australia," he said.

The Commission will identify numerous key issues associated with the National League, such as Marketing, Player Relations, Financial Management and Stadium facilities, and will work towards improving these areas.

In addition, the Commission will encourage the introduction of individuals to the meetings, who have specific skills and areas of expertise in the key areas identified, to benefit the clubs and NSL.

The NSL Executive, which has been in existence since the early 1980's, comprised seven elected representatives from the NSL clubs, acted in an advisory capacity to the Board of Soccer Australia on behalf of the NSL.



Mark Byrnes: Fresh from Socceroos' camp.

Socceroos' camping thrills Parramatta trio

Parramatta Power's Socceroo invitees Ahmad Elrich, Mark Byrnes and Brett Holman are back at training with the club this week after a successful three-day camp with the Socceroos.

"It was great to be given this opportunity," Elrich said. "Frank Farina told us that we were the future in Australian soccer and it was a great achievement to be part of the camp."

New buy, Matthew Langdon will miss the first two Power matches after a two-week suspension that has rolled over from last season. The former Northern Spirit left wingback was given the automatic suspension after picking-up seven yellow cards.

Parramatta Power will however be playing its first trial game on Saturday afternoon against the Parramatta Eagles at Melita Stadium. The Youth League kick-off is at 1pm and first grade is at 3pm.

On the national scene, three of the club's promising teenagers Brett Holman, Pedj Bojic and Michael Brown will head to United States of America with the Australian Under-17s squad on Monday 20

August in preparation for the World Youth Cup in Trinidad/Tabago. The Aussies hope to go one step further and win the competition, which will be held in early September.

Meanwhile, Parramatta Power players will swap their playing strips for Bonds underwear later this month to appear in the Club's exclusive limited edition Power poster.

The first grade team will be posing for the cameras in the heart of Parramatta as part of a new Public Relations campaign, which aims to transform the image of the team.

"It's a well known fact that sex sells and here at the Power we have some of the NSL's sexiest players," Media Relations Manager, Taghred Chandab said.

"This season we're hoping to grab the attention of the community on and off the field. The team was a little surprised but they're looking forward to having a bit of fun."

Bonds will supply the players with its latest range in men's underwear. A date has not been set for the photo shoot.

Wolves, Menai in friendly hit-out

Menai Hawks Junior Soccer Club, one of the biggest junior soccer clubs in New South Wales and Australia with around 1200 registered players, will be playing host to reigning National Soccer League back-to-back champions, Wollongong Wolves today, Tuesday, August 14 at the club's Buckle Reserve ground in

Menai.

Scheduled for 6pm, the Hawks will start off by having Wolves players taking groups of children for 'drills' after which the game between Hawks' Premier League side and the Wolves will commence.

At half time, three roo ball games will be played simultaneously with teams from

the Hawks' 6, 7 and 8 year old cadet sides.

After the roo ball games, the match will continue and after the final whistle, goal kicking/keeping will commence.

The evening is scheduled to wind up at 9pm. Club spokesperson, ever-lively Janice Dufficy promises that full canteen and barbeque facilities will be available for all present at the memorable occasion.

Belconnen's Top-Four hope fades

By Graham Cooke

Belconnen United clung to a fading hope of making the top four play-offs in the ACT Premiership by holding Canberra Olympic to a 0-0 draw in a grim, colourless match at Woden Park Oval on Sunday.

With three games left, United, the reigning premiers, must beat Capital City Suns in a fortnight and hope the Suns slip up somewhere else in order to squeeze into fourth place.

Olympic, in third place, are not yet

entirely safe but the top two, Canberra Deakin and Gungahlin Juventus, the only teams to score at the weekend, are now firmly entrenched in their positions.

It seems that Olympic cannot do without the playing services of their 42-year-old coach, Baz Giampaolo. Sporting a black eye from the knock he took in the previous week's win over Juventus, and still shaking off a viral infection, Giampaolo was relegated to the touchline for this contest - and it showed.

Danny Macor, whose finishing has been incisive and prolific with the boss alongside, was busy but ineffective. He twice blazed over the bar, forced a save

from Rade Kosanovic with a shot along the ground which lacked real power, then was indecisive with the ball at his feet, allowing Kosanovic to take the initiative and rob him.

At the other end, Angelo Konstantinou had little to do, the greatest danger coming from some powerful throws by Adrian Dowling who has the ability to deposit the ball on the far side of the penalty area.

The game should have been made safe for Belconnen 12 minutes from the end when Stuart Camara was brought down by Josh Carmichael in the penalty area, but Daniel Camara sent the spot kick

wide.

Olympic's premiership hopes have been damaged by the loss of Pino Seminara after 24 minutes with a dislocated shoulder. The midfielder was taken to hospital and is unlikely to play any further part in his club's campaign.

Giampaolo described the game as one of Olympic's worst. "They threw everything at us, and I'm quite happy to get away with a draw," he said.

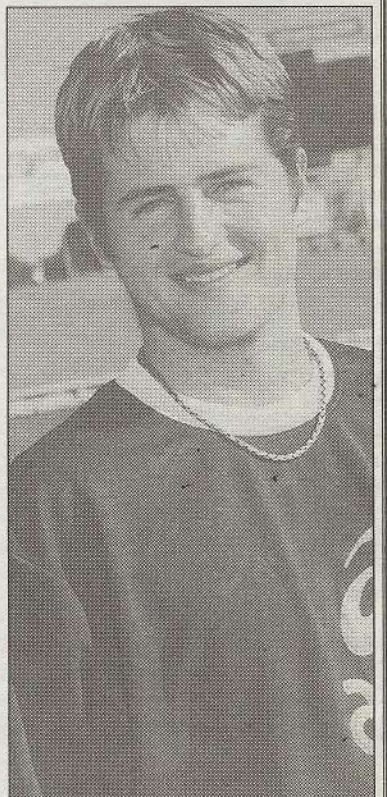
"We probably finished stronger, but there were no more than three real chances in the whole game."

United coach Oscar Langone admitted his hopes soared with the penalty award "it was always going to be a low-scoring game," he said.

"We have to beat the Suns, University of Canberra and Weston Creek, and hope the Suns drop another point somewhere."

Bottom-placed Tuggeranong United seized a point in a goalless draw with a Monaro team whose season has disintegrated. The nearest anyone came to scoring was a shot past the United goalkeeper by Jimmy Baxter who was given offside. Monaro coach Steve Bryant blamed the poor state of the Greenway Oval pitch for dragging down the quality of the game.

There were plenty of goals at Deakin Oval where league leaders Canberra Deakin swamped Weston Creek Royals 8-0. Even goalkeeper Barney Smith got



Deakin's ace goalkeeper who weighed-in a goal against Weston Creek.

into the act, scoring from the penalty spot. Others to find the back of the net were Tony Lemezina (2), Geoff Howarth (2), Ivan Zelic (2) and Marko Perinovic.

Gungahlin Juventus cemented second spot in the table with a 4-0 win over the University of Canberra.

ACT PREMIERSHIP LADDER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Canberra Deakin	13	11	2	0	49	9	35
Gungahlin Juventus	13	10	0	3	44	11	30
Canberra Olympic	13	7	3	3	33	16	24
Capital City Suns	13	7	2	4	38	27	23
Belconnen United	13	6	1	6	24	21	19
Monaro	13	5	1	7	18	27	16
University of Canberra	12	3	1	8	14	40	10
Weston Creek Royals	13	2	0	11	12	59	6
Tuggeranong United	13	1	2	10	17	39	5



• Paul Agostino (left) in German League action for 1860 Munich a fortnight ago. He scored over the weekend in the 1-1 draw with Hamburg.

PAUL SAVES 1860 IN DICEY DRAW

Australian international Paul Agostino notched the equaliser for his German Bundesliga side, 1860 Munich on Saturday to secure a crucial 1-1 draw with Hamburg.

Agostino's goal, which came in the 70th minute, secured the first league points of the season for 1860 after Nico-Jan Hoogma gave Hamburg the lead in the first half.

Agostino's last-gasp equaliser not only fetched a draw for 1860, it also helped guarantee coach Werner Lorient's job after a rather-disastrous start to the season.

1860 lost 4-0 on the opening day of the season to Kaiserslautern and 1-0 to FC

Cologne the following weekend. Newcastle also dumped them out of the Intertoto Cup and a defeat against Hamburg could have cost Lorient his job.

Interestingly, Agostino has found himself on the bench in the team's first two games, as Lorient felt the Aussie international was not yet attuned to the rigours of the German league. With his performance over the weekend, coupled with the face-saving goal, Agostino now looks likely to stake a valid claim to a first team, starting shirt.

However, the 'good' result was marred by a bust-up between Lorient and ex-German international midfielder, Thomas Haessler

who was substituted in the second half. The playmaker however angrily stormed into the dressing room without sitting on the bench.

"I understand Haessler's behaviour, but he had a poor match and I had to react," said Lorient in defence of his decision.

The under-pressure coach however praised his troops for the spirited fight back that secured the draw against Hamburg. "The team showed that their moral is still fine and battled back into the match."

"Once Hamburg took the lead my team got pretty nervous, but that's understandable given the difficult situation we are in," said Lorient.

AMENDED ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE FIXTURES (WK 1 - WK 19)

Due to printing errors, series of mistakes were discovered in the initial fixture-list published on these pages in the edition of Tuesday, July 31, 2001.

Below is a reproduction of the first 19 Weeks which is a corrected version.

The remaining fixtures from Week 20 — Week 38 when the season ends, remain correct and valid.

ABSW deeply regrets the inconvenience.

WEEK 1		Ipswich v Blackburn	Fulham v Ipswich	Sunday, November 25	
Saturday, August 18				Arsenal v Man Utd	
Charlton v Everton		WEEK 6	Leicester v Liverpool	WEEK 15	
Derby v Blackburn		Monday, September 17	Man Utd v Bolton	Saturday, December 1	
Leeds v Southampton		Leicester v Middlesbrough	West Ham v Southampton	Man Utd v Chelsea	
Leicester v Bolton		Tuesday, September 18	Sunday, October 21	Aston Villa v Leicester	
Liverpool v West Ham		Arsenal v Newcastle	Newcastle v Tottenham	Blackburn Rovers v Middlesbrough	
Middlesbrough v Arsenal		Leeds v Everton	Leeds v Chelsea	Charlton v Newcastle	
Sunderland v Ipswich		Sunderland v Tottenham	Monday, October 22	Derby v Liverpool	
Tottenham v Aston Villa			Middlesbrough v Sunderland	Fulham v Leeds	
Sunday, August 19		Wednesday, September 19	Wednesday, October 24	Ipswich v Arsenal	
Chelsea v Newcastle		Blackburn v Bolton	Aston Villa v Charlton	Sunderland v West Ham	
Man Utd v Fulham		Liverpool v Fulham	Southampton v Liverpool	Tottenham v Bolton	
WEEK 2		Man Utd v Derby		Sunday, December 2	
Monday, August 20		Southampton v Ipswich	WEEK 11	Everton v Southampton	
Everton v Tottenham		West Ham v Aston Villa	Saturday, October 27	WEEK 16	
Tuesday, August 21		Chelsea v Charlton	Man Utd v Leeds	Saturday, December 8	
Bolton v Middlesbrough		WEEK 7	Aston Villa v Bolton	Blackburn Rovers v Leeds	
Ipswich v Derby		Saturday, September 22	Charlton v Liverpool	Charlton Athletic v Tottenham	
Arsenal v Leeds		Arsenal v Bolton	Everton v Newcastle	Derby County v Bolton	
Wednesday, August 22		Blackburn v Everton	Fulham v Southampton	Fulham v Everton	
Fulham v Sunderland		Chelsea v Middlesbrough	Ipswich v West Ham	Ipswich v Newcastle	
West Ham v Chelsea		Leicester v Fulham	Sunderland v Arsenal	Leicester City v Southampton	
Blackburn v Man Utd		Liverpool v Tottenham	Tottenham v Middlesbrough	Liverpool v Middlesbrough	
Aston Villa v Charlton		Man Utd v Ipswich	Sunday, October 28	Man Utd v West Ham	
Newcastle v Leicester		Sunderland v Charlton	Derby v Chelsea	Sunderland v Chelsea	
WEEK 3		Sunday, September 23	Monday, October 29	Sunday, December 9	
Saturday, August 25		Leeds v Derby	Blackburn v Leicester	Arsenal v Aston Villa	
Arsenal v Leicester City		West Ham v Newcastle	WEEK 12	WEEK 17	
Blackburn v Tottenham		Monday, September 24	Saturday, November 3	Saturday, December 15	
Everton v Middlesbrough		Southampton v Aston Villa	Leicester City v Sunderland	Aston Villa v Ipswich	
Fulham v Derby		WEEK 8	Bolton v Everton	Bolton v Charlton	
Ipswich v Charlton		Wednesday, September 26	Chelsea v Ipswich	Chelsea v Liverpool	
Southampton v Chelsea		Newcastle v Leicester	Leeds v Tottenham	Everton v Derby	
West Ham v Leeds		Saturday, September 29	Middlesbrough v Derby	Leeds v Leicester	
Sunday, August 26		Aston Villa v Blackburn	Newcastle v Aston Villa	Middlesbrough v Man Utd	
Aston Villa v Man Utd		Bolton v Sunderland	Southampton v Blackburn	Newcastle v Blackburn	
Newcastle v Sunderland		Charlton v Leicester	West Ham v Fulham	Southampton v Sunderland	
Monday, August 27		Derby v Arsenal	Sunday, November 4	Tottenham v Fulham	
Bolton v Liverpool		Everton v West Ham	Arsenal v Charlton	WEEK 18	
WEEK 4		Fulham v Chelsea	Liverpool v Man Utd	Saturday, December 22	
Saturday, September 8		Middlesbrough v Southampton	WEEK 13	Charlton v Blackburn	
Chelsea v Arsenal		Tottenham v Man Utd	Saturday, November 17	Chelsea v Bolton	
Derby County v West Ham		Sunday, September 30	Blackburn v Liverpool	Derby v Aston Villa	
Leeds v Bolton		Newcastle v Liverpool	Aston Villa v Middlesbrough	Leeds v Newcastle	
Leicester v Ipswich		Ipswich v Leeds	Derby County v Southampton	Leicester v West Ham	
Liverpool v Aston Villa		WEEK 9	Everton v Chelsea	Man Utd v Southampton	
Man Utd v Everton		Saturday, October 13	Fulham v Newcastle	Middlesbrough v Fulham	
Middlesbrough v Newcastle		Liverpool v Leeds	Man Utd v Leicester	Sunderland v Everton	
Sunderland v Blackburn		Bolton v Newcastle	Sunderland v Leeds	Tottenham v Ipswich	
Sunday, September 9		Charlton v Middlesbrough	Sunday, November 18	WEEK 19	
Tottenham v Southampton		Chelsea v Leicester	Ipswich v Bolton	Wednesday, December 26	
Charlton v Fulham		Ipswich v Everton	Monday, November 19	Arsenal v Chelsea	
WEEK 5		Southampton v Arsenal	Charlton v West Ham	Aston Villa v Liverpool	
Saturday, September 15		Sunderland v Man Utd	WEEK 14	Blackburn v Sunderland	
Everton v Liverpool		Sunday, October 14	Saturday, November 24	Bolton Wanderers v Leeds	
Aston Villa v Sunderland		Blackburn v West Ham	Bolton v Fulham	Everton v Man Utd	
Bolton v Southampton		Aston Villa v Fulham	Chelsea v Blackburn	Fulham v Charlton	
Derby County v Leicester		Monday, October 15	Leeds v Aston Villa	Ipswich v Leicester	
Fulham v Arsenal		Tottenham v Derby	Leicester v Everton	Newcastle v Middlesbrough	
Middlesbrough v West Ham		WEEK 10	Liverpool v Sunderland	Southampton v Tottenham	
Newcastle v Man Utd		Saturday, October 20	Middlesbrough v Ipswich	West Ham v Derby	
Tottenham v Chelsea		Arsenal v Blackburn	Newcastle v Derby		
Sunday, September 16		Derby v Charlton	Southampton v Charlton		
Charlton v Leeds		Everton v Aston Villa	West Ham v Tottenham		

Marconi's Junior & Youth Presentation Night



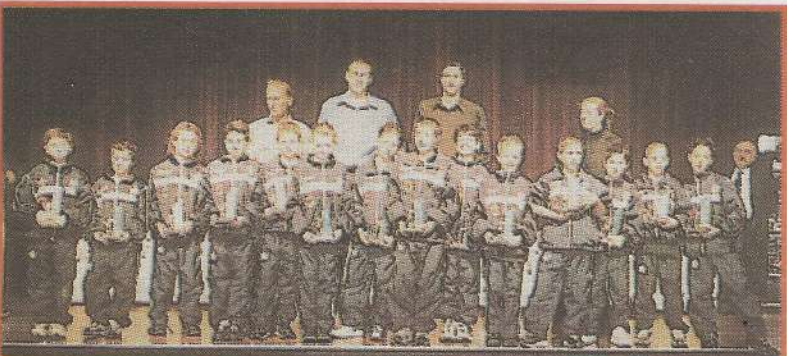
Under 7s—(The Swans), coached by Sammy Sipione and managed by Ms Luisa Melacrinis.



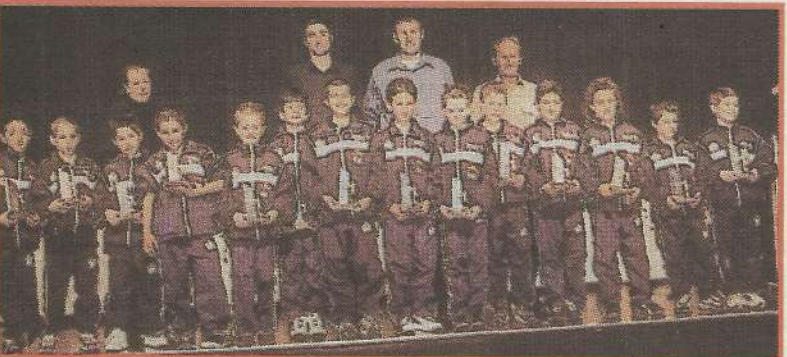
Under 7s—(The Goannas), coached by Jeff Cruwys and managed by Vince Ferraro.



Under 8s, (The Dingoes), coached by Charlie Boutoubia and managed by Peter Clarke.



Under 8s, (The Owls), coached by Frank Valastro and managed by Ms Nadia Valastro.



Under 9s, coached by Alik Rysko and managed by Ms Laura Rysko won their Minor League Championship.



Under 10s, coached by Jeff Stivala, managed by Adam Bulla, magnificently won their Minor League Championship.

By John Economos

Even Australia's World Cup captain, Paul Okon, (himself a former Marconi Junior), was there in spirit by sending a personal message to all the Juniors and Youth from England.

"Congratulations to you all for making the Marconi Junior Soccer teams. As I look back over the years, I have many fond memories of my time as a Marconi Junior. I'm sure that with a lot of hard training and dedication, each and every one of you can reach your respective potential and have a great future," ended the Australian captain.

Ms Lisa Severin, Marconi's energetic Junior and Youth Co-ordinator of Football at Marconi, proudly stated: "Our Under 9s, 10s and 15s won their respective Minor League Championships whilst five of our teams all reached their respective 'Top Six' due to the high quality of our coaching staff."

The Under 11s after a disastrous start, losing seven straight games, brilliantly bounced back to make the Semis under coach Sammy D'Alessandro.

Some of the official guests attending the function were Mr Bruno Brescia, (the Club's major sponsor), Mr Larry Grant, (President of Southern Districts), Bruce Waterhouse, Kelly Cross, Max Kroll and Billy Lodge, (all from the NSW Soccer Federation), plus National Technical Director, Les Scheinflug.

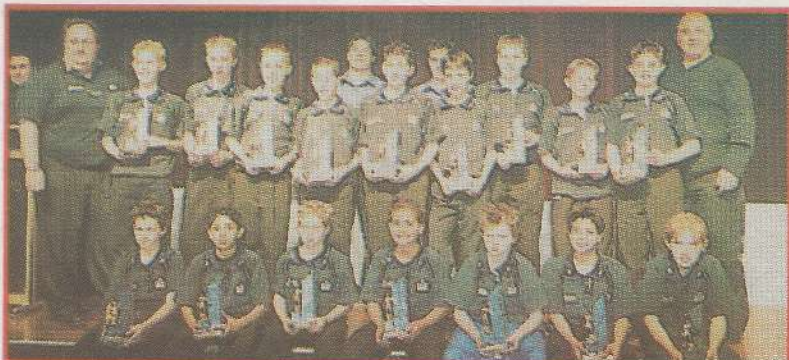
The entire number of trophies presented to the 12 Marconi Junior and Youth squads, were once again, fully and generously sponsored by Sydney businessman, Mr Frank Carioti, the Managing Director of Brenex Pty Ltd.



Frank Labbozzetta (left) being presented with a gift of appreciation for services rendered to Marconi's Juniors by Les Schienflug with Junior and Youth Football Co-ordinator, Ms Lisa Severin.



Under 11s, coached by Sammy D'Alessandro and managed by Sam Penna.



Under 12s coached by Ricardo Chiellini and managed by Natale (Neville) Orlando.



Under 13s, coached by Roberto Cesarone and managed by Mario Radisic.



Under 14s, coached by Eddie McPherson and managed by Pat Faga.



Under 15s, coached by Pat Marando and managed by David D'Alfonso also won their respective Minor League Championship.



Under 17s, coached by Dino Severin and managed by Robert Tolomeo.



Victorian Premier League



GRAND FINAL

BERGERS ARE CHAMPIONS AFTER CLIFFHANGER

By Bert van Bedaf

The revival of Heidelberg United as a soccer force grew to new heights with the club's nail-biting title victory over minor premiers Port Melbourne at Bob Jane stadium last Sunday.

Heidelberg's last president in the national league Peter Tsaklis predicted a restoration of Heidelberg to former greatness. "We'll stay one more season in the Premier League and then we'll go for the national league. We'll be in the national league again in two years. The NSL constitution says there should be four clubs from Melbourne in the league.

There are two vacancies," Tsaklis said.

Heidelberg has gone through the depths in the last decade. Dumped from the NSL in 1995 to join the Premier League, it also relegated to the State League for a season before clawing its way back up. Last season it narrowly

avoided relegation. Now the Bergers are again on top. The last time they won the Victorian title was in 1990.

The Bergers did it the hard way on Sunday. They surrendered a two-goal lead before snaring the Victorian trophy 4-3 on penalties. Goal keeper of the year Jim Kourtis was the team's rock, making vital saves during the match and saving two penalties, whereas captain Cameron Brown went from devastation to delight. He first levelled the score with an own goal and then struck the fourth penalty that won the Bergers the championship.

Port Melbourne seemed overwhelmed by the occasion. The Sharks were outclassed in the first half and failed to capitalise on chances in the second half. Port scored once from eight chances (not counting the own goal), while Heidelberg scored twice from three chances.

Heidelberg forged ahead in the 18th minute with the opening

goal. Nick Lazarevski cut the ball back from the right inside the box and the Port defence failed to clear it. Berger midfielder George Georgiadis swooped on the loose ball and bent it over the outstretched hands of 'keeper Steve Wardle into the top right-hand corner.

The Sharks were close to levelling in the 26th minute, when George Tzirtis crossed the ball into the area, but Peter Psarros side-footed it over the bar.

Lazarevski committed a similar sin minutes later as he drove the ball over the Port bar with a wild shot from a relatively free position just outside the area.

Port Melbourne's free-flowing game got them in front of the

Berger goal, but they failed to put pressure Victoria's 'keeper of the year Jim Kourtis as their shots were invariably wide of the target.

Heidelberg went into the break a goal up and looked like winning their first grand final since losing to Altona Magic in 1996.

The Sharks began their assault immediately after the interval and nearly got their equaliser from two clear chances. A through-pass by Tzirtis put Psarros in the clear, but the Port striker poked the ball over the bar on the run in the 54th minute.

Kourtis intervened two minutes later to thwart a Mitch Pino shot, while the rebounding Tsaltas header was cleared out of the goal

area. Heidelberg pounced a second time in the 59th minute seemingly taking a stranglehold on the trophy. Georgiadis whipped in a cross from the right and Mile Medjedovic glanced his header wide of Wardle and high into the far corner.

Ollerton pulled a switch when he took of a tiring Lazarevski and opted for a fresh striker in Alfonso Opazo in the 64th minute, while Chalkitis took off an exhausted Raheen Mousawy for veteran midfielder Peter Tsolakis in the 68th minute.

Buoyed by the inspirational Tsolakis, the minor premier struck back in the 73rd minute with a low drive under Kourtis by Victoria's top scorer Psarros, who within two minutes was denied twice an equaliser by the experienced Kourtis from point-blank range.

An own goal got the Sharks on equal terms with eight minutes of official time remaining. Tsolakis took the ball to the left and crossed it into the box, where Brown tried to clear, but he drove the ball into the far corner instead.

EXTRA TIME

The dramatic equaliser forced the game into golden goal extra time, giving Port another life and letting Heidelberg rue the moment they let slip the title in normal



time. Tsolakis almost got Port the title with an explosive shot from 25 metres, but the outstanding Kourtis was on the spot with a diving punch at the far post.

Clearly, Heidelberg was banking on Kourtis to win the title on penalties, as they had done against Bulleen in the qualifying final. The Bergers did not produce a shot on the Port goal during the ten minutes each way of golden goal time.

PENALTY SHOOT-OUT

In the penalty shoot-out, Kourtis blocked spot-kicks by Serdar Pir and Tsolakis. Port 'keeper Steve Wardle blocked the kick by Eric Vasiliadis.

With the penalty score tied at 3-3, Brown stepped up and blasted the winning penalty past Wardle.

WHAT THEY SAID

HARRY CHALKITIS on losing the grand final:

"Inexperience perhaps. We had a few young players in the middle of the park and we took some time to settle in and topped a goal. But in the second half there was only one team on the park. The fact that the best team doesn't always win is the way it goes.

"I congratulate Heidelberg, the players and Peter Ollerton on their win.

They did it the hard way to get to this stage. They had to play qualifying games to get there.

"We did our job. We played attractive football and we scored and unfortunately, we conceded a couple and lost out in the penalty shoot-out."

HEIDELBERG president on winning the title:

"It's a bit of a hollow victory, because penalties is a cruel way of winning the game, especially a game as fantastic as this one. But we'll definitely take the victory and we're looking forward to next season," Heidelberg president Elias Deliyannis said.

PETER OLLERTON on his fourth Victorian title:

This is my fourth. I won two for Croydon (1985 and 1986) and one for Preston (1994) also against Port Melbourne) and now with Heidelberg. I've had a pretty good run."

Ollerton said he wasn't sure he'd have his hands on the trophy with two goals up, because "Some players started to run out of legs a bit, that's why I put on Opazo for Lazarevski."

On the penalty shoot-out: "I could not see us scoring in extra time and I was pretty confident that in a penalty shoot-out with the best goal keeper in Victoria, not just Premier League, we'd have a

good chance. We practiced penalties. We were prepared for it. I was pretty confident, when it came down to penalties."

"But to be honest, I'm totally shocked that we won it. I didn't think we could win it from day one. I thought if we finish in the top five that would be a miracle. We finished second and that still astounded me. To win the grand final is full credit to the players and the club. They've been in the wilderness for a few years and now they're going for more stability.

The foundations are there for them (to get back in the NSL)," he said.

JIMMY KOURTIS on saving penalties:

"I just put them off a little bit by staying off centre and things worked out well, two penalties saved. It's a great win. It's been a great season all-round. It's great for the club. It's been starved for success for some time," Heidelberg 'keeper Jim Kourtis said.

About Cameron Brown's own goal, which levelled the game, Kourtis said, "You couldn't blame him. It was one of those things. It was a great finish for a striker. I just thought, I hope we've got the character to hold them out now and if we can do that we're in it with another chance. And we did.

It's a shame it had to come down the penalties," he said.

CAMERON Brown on scoring own-goal and winning penalty: "I could not get there with my head, so I stuck my leg up. The ball came off my shinpad and it gave Jimmy (Kourtis) no chance. I was a bit shaken after that.

On the winning penalty: "That was no drama, I always knew, I'd put in the net."



Damien Vojtek, celebrating his club, Heidelberg United's victory in the Grand Final over the weekend.

VIC PREMIER LEAGUE GRAND FINAL

Sunday August 12, 2001

Port Melbourne	2
(3 penalties) Psarros 72, own goal (Brown) 82.	
Heidelberg United	2
(4 penalties) Georgiadis 18, Medjedovic 59.	

PENALTIES: Port Melbourne: Knezevic, Poutakidis, Dimas., Heidelberg: Vojtek, Deprepertis, Kakos, Brown.
VENUE: Bob Jane stadium. **REFEREE:** Bruno D'Aniello.
CROWD: 4,100.

TEAMS: Port Melbourne: Wardle, Knezevic, Poutakidis, Pir, Tzirtsakis, Tzirtis (Dimas 110), Pino, Mousawy (Tsolakis 68), Psarros, Tsaltas, Psonis.

HEIDELBERG UNITED: Kourtis, Schwal, Lazarevski (Opazo 64), Cunningham, Medjedovic, Brown, Georgiadis, Vojtek, Di Iorio (Deprepertis 78), Vasiliadis, Kakos.



QUEENSLAND SOCCER FEDERATION



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BRISBANE City dump Lions in Cup Final

By Glenn Davis

Brisbane City will go all out to claim Queensland's three major trophies this season after snaring its first piece of silverware with a hard fought 2-0 win over arch rivals Brisbane Lions in the Queensland Cup final at Perry Park last Saturday night.

An early header from midfielder Damien Waugh and a late goal from striker Jon San-Martin proved the major difference in the Cup showdown dominated possession wise by Brisbane Lions.

The Cup final had only one blemish when Lions youngster Brendan Lewandowski was sent-off in the dying stages for an illegal tackle.

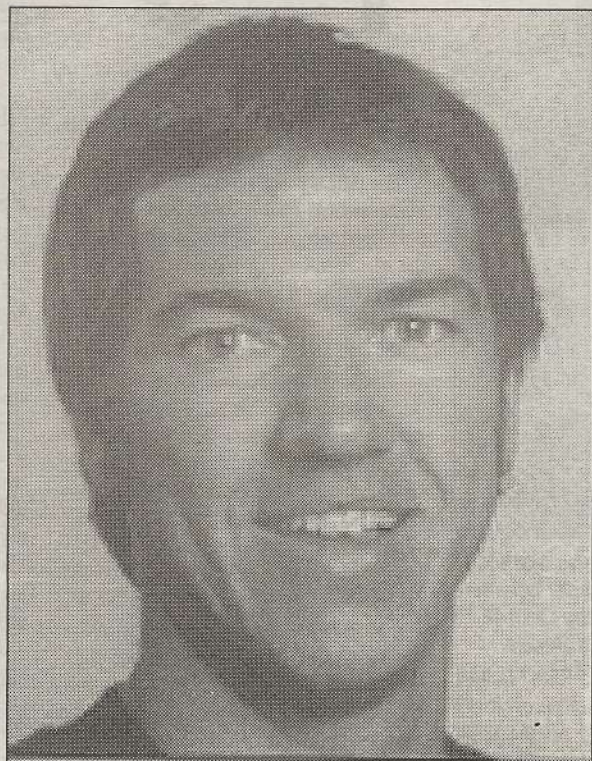
Brisbane City keeper Scott Higgins was easily the man of the match denying Brisbane Lions on numerous occasions prompting Wright to declare it was his best game for the club.

"It was his best game for us and he played extremely well but the saves he did I'd expect him to make," Wright said.

"If he's got any aspirations to play at the next level he needs to play like that every week.

"I believe he's got the ability for the next level and on his day he's as good as anyone but it's only his first year back from a knee reconstruction and there's some aspects of his game he still needs to work on."

Wright said Brisbane City played according to a match plan



Damian Waugh: One of Brisbane City's heroes on the night with the opening goal.

and was never concerned with the superior possession Brisbane Lions' enjoyed.

"After we scored early we planned to defend in numbers

and weren't worried if we lost possession in Lions' half," he said.

"It was our game plan once we lost possession to drop back and defend in numbers."

Waugh's early 15th minute goal came when he headed home unmarked from a free kick from Barry Wilkinson while the final goal came on the counter attack from San-Martin who rounded the Lions defence before slotting home close to full-time.

Wright believes Brisbane City are well placed to achieve their early season goal of taking out the three major trophies, the Queensland Cup, premiership and grand final.

"We're currently second in the premiership and have got that spot wrapped up but we can still win it," he said.

"Once you get into the finals that is another competition altogether." Brisbane City currently trail leaders Wynnum by three points in the premier

league but have a game in hand against Bundaberg this Wednesday and could jump to the lead on goal difference with a big scoreline.

It's understood relegation candidates Bundaberg is not happy coming down to play Brisbane

"The first goal we conceded was dreadful and just bad marking from Chris Day on Damien Waugh."

Despite the defeat, Sime praised both teams for an entertaining spectacle.

"I'm glad it was a decent game and I'm not disappointed one bit," he said.

"I really feel for the players as they tried their hearts out and couldn't have done any more.

"We opened Brisbane City right up but couldn't score."

Sime's son Darren, Reece Tollenaere, Mat Olley, Michael Baird and even substitute Warren Allen all had decent chances to break the rot but were denied by Higgins.

"It was unbelievable. Those players all had good chances to score and we were off our seats expecting them to go in but somehow Giggles put an arm or a leg out and stopped them," Sime said.

Sime believes the Queensland Cup loss won't harm Brisbane Lions' premier league final chances with only two matches remaining.

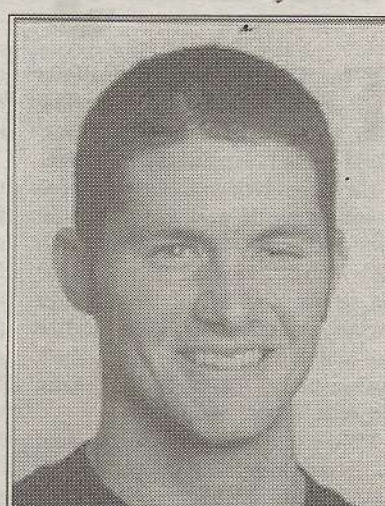
"The boys are hurting but they've got to learn to lose as

"We could have done with Des in the Cup final as he's one of the best players going around in the premier league," he said.

"I still can't believe the Brisbane Strikers didn't give him another bite at the cherry for the coming national league season.

"Des is a lot better player and more mature now than when he was with them last time."

Meanwhile Sime ended speculation about his future coaching role at Brisbane Lions by insisting he



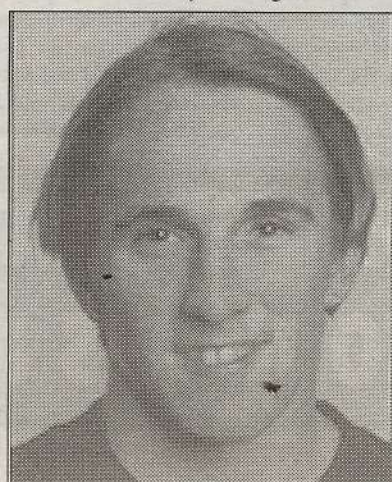
Matt Olley: Fluffed several scoring opportunities for the Lions.

would not coach the side next season.

Sime was called in to replace previous coach John Ogden who was controversially sacked by Brisbane Lions two months ago.

"I'm only in the job temporarily," Sime said.

"I'm the development officer at Brisbane Lions and I'll be doing that again next season after the club appoints a new coach at the end of the season."



Baird Michael: Brisbane Lions striker who missed good chances.

"I thought the better team lost," Sime said.

"The first goal we conceded was dreadful and just bad marking from Chris Day on Damien Waugh."

City midweek as its a normal working day in Bundaberg while Brisbane has its show day public holiday.

Beaten coach John Sime was far from disappointed with Brisbane Lions' performance.

"I thought the better team lost," Sime said.

"We had about 80 per cent of possession but their goalkeeper was absolutely outstanding and easily the man of the match while my keeper Todd Rumble only had to make the one save in the first half.

well as learn to win," Sime said.

"I don't think it will be hard to pick them up for their last two games against Taringa at home and Easts away."

With the Queensland Cup over, Sime is keen for a top three finish to give Brisbane Lions two bites in the play-offs.

"The goal now is to finish as high as we can but I'd like to finish third to get two chances in the semis," he said.

Sime was rueing the recent loss of midfielder Des Hughes who left two weeks ago for an overseas working holiday.



Des Hughes: Finished on the losing team with Brisbane Lions.



QUEENSLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

FIXTURES (ROUND 21)

Saturday 18th August

Mt Gravatt v IPSW Knights 6.00pm
Gold Coast v Wynnum 7.00pm
TBA Raiders v Pine Rivers 7.00pm

Sunday 19th August

B'Berg Waves v Rochedale Rovers 2.45pm
Brisbane Lions v Taringa Rovers 4.00pm
Brisbane City v Eastern Suburbs 2.45pm

• No Premier League Games Last Week Due to the Queensland Cup Final.

SOCCER WOMAN

BY JANENE MÄR

Valuable starting point in Young Matildas' campaign

The Central Coast International Series proved a valuable starting point in the Young Matildas' World Youth Championship campaign.

The lessons both good and not so good to emerge from the week-long tournament now gives new National Youth Coach Mike Mulvey a measure from which he can set the direction of the campaign towards April's Oceania Qualifiers and the inaugural FIFA Women's World Youth Championship in Canada, August/September 2002.

Mulvey selected this 19-member team heavily dependent on the input of the NTC Coaches, having little personal knowledge of the eligible players outside of his own State of Queensland, and/or not having witnessed those better-known interstate players since the last national league season. This tournament, although allowed less than two days' lead-in time before the first match, provided the perfect conditions under which Mulvey could finally

make thorough personal assessments of each individual player and how they combined as a team.

It will be most interesting to look back next year come qualifiers time and then Canada 2002 to see just how many of this nineteen will have survived the cut. Mulvey had made it clear from the start that it was up to each and every player to prove that they have what it takes to play at the highest level - both the ability and the desire. Some passed with flying colours, others have some hard work ahead of them.

From my humble observations, the standouts over the week for me were midfielder Collette McCallum, a constant threat in attack up the left flank with a fantastic cross and dangerous whenever she had the ball, livewire striker Catherine Cannuli with her mesmerising close skills and amazing nose for goal. Midfielder Lana Harch performed admirably up and down the right flank, and Stacey Stocco busily strutted her stuff in the centre of the



Kate McShea: The Young Matildas captain was a true leader on and off the field during the Central Coast International Series.

park. Olympian and captain Kate McShea both in defence and midfield proved her leadership qualities on and off the field.

Caitlin Munoz was effective in her role in midfield, whilst Thea Slatyer, although not normally a defender, proved promising at the back.

The defence emerged as the area of our game requiring the greatest improvement, although there was visible improvement in the games following Tuesday's heavy loss to NSWIS. After the week's finale, Mulvey also cited fitness and possession of the ball as areas in need of attention.

"I felt we showed that we need to raise our overall fitness levels, which we've been assessing all week. In tournament play and international level, you need to be fit and quick. Also we need to improve our ability to keep the ball."

Don't be confused by the fact that NSW Institute of Sport, a 'State' side (actually two States - NSW and Northern NSW), twice defeated our young national team. NSWIS' scholarship athletes, all age eligible for the World Youth Championship, were more than fired up to show up the Young Matildas and prove that they were

worthy selections next time around. Three were members of last year's Australian U17 Team which contested the Adidas Cup in America, and the side was also largely bolstered by senior internationals Anissa Tann-Darby and Joanne Peters, plus the experienced Michelle Carney and Cassandra Kell.

It was a fantastic experience for all concerned having the Vietnam and Singapore national teams visit our shores. Both preparing for next month's South East Asian Games and December's Asian Championships, the tour and competition was an excellent lead-in exercise.

Vietnam, in full-time training since February under former Australian National Coach Steve Darby, displayed some exciting skill, understanding of the game, speed, and movement off the ball. If they continue to improve at this rate, they may be the next one to challenge the Asian big guns of China, Japan, and North Korea.

Singapore, just reviving their national team program and women's soccer as a whole after five years in the wilderness, brought a very young team who are obviously very raw at this level. Although suffering some heavy defeats, they weren't too disheartened, knowing that these things take time. It is felt that they will be a much greater force a decade or so down the track, with the solid long-term support and financial backing of their Association.

Both Asian teams, with their small, slight build, found it difficult to match the bigger, stronger physiques of the young Australians.

IMPROVED MATILDAS FALL TO NSWIS IN FINAL

NSW IS	2
(Carney 17, 71)	
AUSTRALIAN YOUTH TEAM	1
(Cannuli 72)	
3RD PLACE PLAYOFF - VIETNAM	4
(Nguyet 21, Thi Ha 37, 58, Ngoc Mai 82)	
SINGAPORE	0

The Young Matildas were unable to convert their territorial advantage into goals, going down 2-1 to rivals NSW Institute of Sport in Saturday's final at NorthPower Stadium.

Vietnam proved comfortable 4-0 victors over Singapore to take third place.

Seeking revenge for their comprehensive 5-2 loss to the NSW Institute last Tuesday, the Young Matildas this time controlled the majority of play throughout both halves and created numerous openings but were unable to break through on goal.

NSWIS took the lead in the 17th minute, a dangerous high ball toward goal saw striker Michelle Carney and defender tussling in pursuit, before Carney managed to poke a low shot past the keeper.

The Young Matildas' Olympian Kate McShea was pushed into midfield for the second half which helped to lift the Young Matildas performance, providing some needed urgency in the team.

Against the run of play, NSWIS then doubled their lead, Carney

this time rising above her taller opponents to finish with a great header into the top left corner of goal. But Australia responded immediately to keep themselves in the race, a cracking first-time volley 15 metres out by Catherine Cannuli giving the keeper no chance.

The Young Matildas fought desperately for the equaliser, con-



Experienced Matilda defender, Anissa Tann Darby, was a key player in the NSWIS victory over the Young Matildas.

tinuing to work well from out wide to get in behind the NSWIS defence, but still the Australian side was unable to finish off.

"This was a different game totally to when we lost last time - I felt we dominated a great majority of the game today," said National Youth Coach Mike Mulvey.

"There were a lot of positives created and we made a lot of chances. I felt NSW burgled us a little bit with two goals on the break. But we were our own worst enemy, letting the ball bounce in there. Nobody likes to lose, especially in a final, but this is all a learning curve for us, and we'll go on and gain a lot of confidence towards our World Youth Cup qualifiers."

In the third place playoff, Vietnam's skill and knowledge of the game presented the inexperienced Singapore with too great a challenge, although the smaller Singaporeans put up a spirited battle throughout against their favoured opponents.

Vietnam displayed some fantastic touches on their way to the four-goal win, and opened their account midway through the first half through the dynamic Phung Minh Nguyet. Nguyen Thi Ha then added her name to the score-sheet each side of the half-time break, with substitute Luu Ngoc Mai making her mark with ten minutes remaining.

HOW MATILDAS REACHED THE FINAL

Round Three
Thursday, 9 August

AUSTRALIAN YOUTH	2
(Cannuli 6, McLaughlin 68)	
VIETNAM	0
NSW IS	4
(Colthorpe 25, Kimber 52, Ledbrook 73, Minogue 88)	
SINGAPORE	0

Saturday's final was an emotion-charged rematch between rivals the Young Matildas and NSW Institute of Sport, the national side after revenge for last Tuesday's 5-2 pounding from the Blues.

In this last round-robin match played Thursday night, the Young Matildas bounced back well from Tuesday's loss in their clash against Vietnam, winning 2-0 in a match where both were vying for a finals berth.

Australia took the lead in the opening six min-

utes, Collette McCallum's brilliant cross met with a clinical finish by Catherine Cannuli.

The Young Matildas were again finally rewarded with a welcome second goal midway through the second half, Justine McLaughlin the recipient of a neat through ball which she slotted past the keeper.

"We bounced back well from our 5-2 loss," said National Youth Coach Mike Mulvey. "The victory was important, but equally as important was the clean sheet. What we played tonight counts as a tournament football result to get us to the final. We've done that now, and the girls will take a lot of heart from that."

In the earlier match, the young NSWIS lineup wore down Singapore to finish with a 4-0 win. The locals started slowly and led by the one goal at the break. Singapore were unlucky not to score their first goal of the tournament, twice hitting the crossbar from direct freekicks.



NSW Youth League Results

SUPER YOUTH LEAGUE

ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 13: Sydney Olympic 4 Manly Warringah 0, Leichhardt Tigers 0 Canterbury Marrickville 2.

GRADE 14: Marconi Stallions 3 Bankstown City Cubs 0, Blacktown City Demons 3 Wollongong Wolves 1.

GRADE 15: Northern Spirit 1 Bonnyrigg White Eagles 0, Sydney United 2 Sydney Olympic 1.

GRADE 17: Parramatta Eagles 2 Marconi

Stallions 0, Blacktown City Demons 4 Sydney United 3.

SUPER CADET LEAGUE

ELIMINATION SEMI FINAL:

GRADE 11: Manly Warringah Dolphins 2 Marconi Stallions 0, Northern Spirit 4 St George 2 Penalties (Full time 2-2).

GRADE 12: Marconi Stallions 1 Central Coast Lakers 0, Blacktown City Demons 3 Sutherland Shire 2 Penalties (2-2 Full time).



Winter Super League

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FINAL ROUND

Lions King of Super League

MSC Liverpool 1 Bankstown City Lions 1

Bankstown City secured the Super League Premiership with a dour 1-1 draw against MSC Liverpool at Hammondville Oval last Sunday.

Needing only to draw to take the crown, Bankstown had to fight all the way against a spirited Liverpool outfit. Despite dominating most of the opening 45 minutes, it took the visitors until one minute from half time to break the deadlock, when Robert Issa scored. The Lions threatened to run away with the match in the second term, but it was MSC who posted the next goal, with Josh Wells heading a well-weighted Scott Watkins free kick for the equaliser midway through the second term. The draw enough to ensure top spot, much to the



delight of the large contingent of Bankstown supporters.

Fraser Park Jets 2 Fairfield Bulls 2

The Fraser Park Jets and the Fairfield Bulls ended the regular Super League season as equals as they contested a two all draw on Sunday afternoon.

After 41 minutes Stuart Van Bentum opened the scoring after rifling in a volley from the edge of the area. An Ivo De Jesus 40-yard screamer that caught Frank Mikuletic off his line two minutes later matched his strike. After 48 minutes Damian Rosenthal toed in at the near post as he met a De Jesus free kick played in from the left. It was left to the Golden Boot-elect Marc Hoenselaars to once again bring the teams even as he shot in off a

post on 71 minutes to leave the final 20 minutes of the match up for grabs that neither team could exploit and take as their own.

Hajduk Wanderers 4 Macarthur Rams 2

Hajduk finished their season on a winning note defeating Macarthur Rams 4-2 in an entertaining fixture at Hajduk Stadium.

In front of a large crowd that included former Sydney United coach Velimir Kupresak, Hajduk impressed scoring goals through Mauro Van Cuylenburg, Nahuel Arrarte, Adriano Macerola and Mark Reveley. But the Rams did have their moments, twice fighting back from deficits with a goal from Leigh Gunn and an Eric Williams penalty but they were unable to keep going in the final ten minutes when they were punished for some poor defending to concede two goals.

Hurstville City Minotaurs 1 Dulwich Hill 3

Dulwich Hill overcame a determined Hurstville Minotaurs outfit at St George Stadium, defeating them 3-1, after conceding the first goal of the match.

Hurstville began the game at a high pace looking to finish the season on a winning note and managed to convert their zeal into a goal in the 23rd minute when a Dulwich defender mis-timed a header that went backwards and to the direction of Evangelos Petratos who skillfully nailed a volley from 25 out and into the back of the net for an amazing goal. However Dulwich Hill soon settled things down through good ball control and hit back with two successive goals in the remainder of the half from Robert Todorovski in the 31st and 43rd minutes to take the lead at the break. Despite Hurstville's best efforts in the second half to construct a goal, Dulwich managed to seal the match in the 75th minute thanks to Ben Deighan.

Stanmore Hawks 3 Rockdale City Suns 3

A 3-3 draw at Arlington Oval between the Stanmore Hawks and the Rockdale City Suns completed the Hawks commitments for the season.

The Rockdale City Suns rested several players in a match that meant little having already booked their ticket to the finals at the expense of AC United. Two goals from the Suns star striker Spase Najdoski, 15 in total for the year, and Bill Petrovski should have been enough to get full points. The Stanmore

Hawks had other ideas and had Neil Phillipou to thank with a last minute goal that got them a draw. Yane Talcevski and Eddie Briscoe scored their previous goals. It was a good end to a disappointing season for the Hawks while the Suns will have their sights set on next week's semi final match against Dulwich Hill.

AC United 0 Manly Warringah Dolphins 1

Steve Berry's 13th goal of the season for Manly Warringah was enough to give the Dolphins third place on the Super League ladder and set up a showdown with Fairfield Bulls this week. AC United finish a solid season in sixth position. Dolphins Chairman Keith Pester was pleased with the team's performance this season highlighting the contribution of coach Gary Van Egmond and also several Northern Spirit players spending the winter at Cromer Park. Pester also praised the club's overall performance with the Under-21s finishing second and the Under-18s winning their competition.



Claudio Canosa: Bankstown City Lion's successful coach wrapped up the 2001 Winter Super League Premiership.



Nahuel Arrarte of Hajduk Wanderers scored the second of four goals in a thrilling encounter with the Macarthur Rams that ended 4-2.

WINTER SUPER LEAGUE LADDER

(AFTER ROUND 22)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bankstown City Lions	22	14	5	3	39	14	47
2. Fairfield Bulls	22	13	5	4	72	28	44
3. Manly Warringah Dolphins	22	14	2	6	50	26	44
4. Dulwich Hill	22	13	4	5	41	21	43
5. Rockdale City Suns	22	12	4	6	44	35	40
6. AC United	22	10	4	8	30	26	34
7. Hurstville City Minotaurs	22	7	4	11	20	39	25
8. Macarthur Rams	22	6	4	12	31	34	22
9. Fraser Park	22	6	4	12	32	49	22
10. Hajduk Wanderers	22	6	4	12	26	46	22
11. Stanmore Hawks	22	6	4	12	26	46	22
12. MSC Liverpool	22	1	4	17	20	81	7

For further information see:



Winter Super League

ELIMINATION

SEMI-FINAL

SATURDAY 18th AUGUST

Dulwich Hill v Rockdale City Suns

Fraser Park
First Grade: 3.00pm

Hajduk Wanderers v Bankstown City

Fraser Park
U/21: 12.30pm

TBA V TBA

Fraser Park
U/18: 10.30am

PRELIMINARY

SEMI-FINAL

SUNDAY 19th AUGUST

Fairfield Bulls v Manly Warringah

Jensen Park
First Grade: 3.00pm

Manly Warringah Dolphins v Fairfield Bulls

Jensen Park
U/21: 12.30pm

Macarthur Rams v TBA

Jensen Park
U/18: 10.30am

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FC Porto's Swedish midfielder Fredrick Soderstrom (right) goes for the ball with Sporting's Rui Bento during their Portuguese League match over the weekend.

Davids sues Blatter over drug remarks

Dutch and Juventus midfielder Edgar Davids has opened legal proceedings which he hopes will lead to a public apology from FIFA president Sepp Blatter, Dutch agency ANP reported over the weekend.

Davids, who was suspended by the game's world governing body last May after testing positive for the banned anabolic nandrolone, is asking for an apology after accusations the FIFA president made on August 1.

Blatter said on Dutch television that Davids' hematocrit (red blood cell) level in his sample was one of the highest he had ever seen — a claim which Davids found damaging.

According to the player's lawyer, it would be only fair for Blatter to make his apology on television. "People are inclined to believe that there's actually more to this affair after what the president of FIFA claims," said Davids' lawyer.

He added: "Blatter made these accusations on television. It would be good if he made the

apology on television too."

A representative for Blatter has already sent a letter to Davids in which he affirms the FIFA president's "regret" at having made the claims — a gesture which Davids has roundly rejected.

An Amsterdam judge is set to fix a date for the hearing — at which Blatter will be expected to attend — within the next week.

The anti-doping committee of Italy's Olympic Committee (CONI) called earlier this month for Davids to be banned for eight months and that he be fined 200 million lire (90,700 dollars).

Davids continues to protest his innocence and has said he will fight the ban through the courts.

Davids' teammate in the Dutch international team, Barcelona's Frank de Boer, had his suspension for doping offences slashed last month after European football's governing body UEFA ruled de Boer had probably ingested nandrolone from contaminated food supplements.

The 31-year-old De Boer had originally been banned for 12 months but his ban will now end on August 31.



Sepp Blatter

BRAZIL ARE BACK, CARLOS BOASTS

Brazil's national soccer team has begun to regain its championship form, winger Roberto Carlos said Saturday, adding that the improvements would be on display when the squad faces Paraguay in a World Cup qualifier this week.

"We're on the right path to regain our prestige, to regain the respect of all our opponents," Carlos told reporters at the team's practice facility in the southern Brazilian city of Curitiba.

According to Carlos, the current Brazilian lineup is so loaded with offensive talent that the squad could score

more goals against Paraguay than it did in its 5-0 rout of Panama in a friendly match last week.

The talented winger was the star of the friendly, which he described as his best match in nine years with the national team.

"I felt very good, I had the freedom to attack, and even scored a goal. What more could I ask," he said.

Carlos said that the match with Paraguay could mark the beginning of Brazil's comeback in the South American

qualifiers for the 2002 World Cup. Brazil currently shares fourth place with Uruguay.



Roberto Carlos

Argentina is in first place, followed by Paraguay and Ecuador, which has been the revelation of the qualifiers.

VOGTS IS NEW KUWAITI COACH

Former Germany coach Berti Vogts on Sunday signed a one-year deal as coach of the Kuwait national side, the Kuwait federation (FKF) announced.

The deal ends recent speculation that 54-year-old Vogts, who coached Germany to victory in the 1996 European championships, was set to take over the post left vacant by Czech Dusan Uhrin.

Uhrin was sacked following his failure to qualify Kuwait for the second elimination round for the 2002 World Cup. Vogts will receive a monthly salary of 34,000 dollars plus an engagement fee of 155,000 dollars.

As a defender Vogts won 96 caps for the "Mannschaft", won three German league titles with Borussia Moenchengladbach and was part of the German team that won the World Cup in 1974.

After his 1996 victory as coach Vogts fell out of favour at home when Germany failed to impress at the World Cup in 1994 and 1998.

He returned briefly to club football last season, taking over as coach of Bayer Leverkusen temporarily when Christophe Daum was sacked after it emerged he had been using cocaine.

Captain assaults teammate in Brazil

The captain of Brazilian first division team America-Belo Horizonte was sent off on Sunday for striking a teammate who was lying on the ground after being hit by the ball.

Defender Wellington Paulo was booed off the field by fans of opponents Palmeiras after the incident on the stroke of halftime of the Brazilian championship match.

"It was a stupid thing to do," the America captain admitted to touchline reporters as he headed for an early shower.

The victim, midfielder Ruy, said: "I had been hit by the ball and he told me to get up but I couldn't. He's the captain of the team and it's his way of doing things."

In a similar incident earlier this year, Vasco da Gama team-mates Paulo Miranda

and Viola were both sent off for fighting with each other.

Third-placed Palmeiras won the match 3-1 and are one of three teams level at the top of the table with ten points from four games.

Atletico Mineiro, 3-0 winners over Guarani, are top on goals scored from Atletico Paranaense, who dampened veteran coach Mario Zagallo's 70th birthday celebrations with a 4-0 win over Flamengo.

First half goals by Kleber and Alex Mineiro and second half efforts from Kleber and Rodrigo left Flamengo, Brazil's most popular club, 27th in the 28-team table with one point out of a possible 12 and no goals scored.

LIGHTNING KILLS 2 PLAYERS

Two players were killed and 10 others severely burned when a bolt of lightning struck a soccer stadium during a professional match.

Deportivo Chiquimulilla and Pueblo Nuevo Vinas were into the second half of their game in Guatemala's third professional division Saturday night when a storm blew over the municipal stadium in Chiquimulilla, 75 miles east of the capital, Guatemala City.

Shortly after officials elected to continue the game, a bolt of lightning crashed into a metal guard rail surrounding the field, knocking everyone on the field off their feet.

Emilio Najera, a spokesman for

Chiquimulilla's volunteer fire fighters, said the bolt spread through the rail, creating a ring of electric charge on the field and burning dozens of players, coaches and referees for several seconds.

No one in the stands was injured. Electric burns killed 16-year-old Rosbin Yuman and Lester Marriquin, 24, instantly, Najera said.

Najera said 10 other players were rushed to area hospitals with severe burns. Among them was Marvel Jimenez, the younger brother of Alvaro Jimenez, a stand-out on the first-division Comunicaciones team and a member of Guatemala's national soccer squad.



I'll be back for Brazil, Romario vows

Veteran striker Romario has provided a new headache for national coach, Felipe Scolari, as he scored four goals for his club Vasco da Gama in a Brazilian championship game penultimate weekend.

Scolari left Romario out of the squad preparing to play Paraguay in a crucial 2002 World Cup qualifier this week, allegedly that he is off-form, but his recent goals have led to inevitable criticism of the coach's decision.

"I'm always ready to help the national team, independent of the situation," said the 35-year-old during a beachside television interview in Rio de Janeiro.

Romario remembered the qualifying campaign for the 1994 World Cup, when he was axed for nearly one year before coming back in the final match against Uruguay.

He responded by scoring the two goals which took Brazil to the United States, where his five goals helped bring a fourth world title.

"I'm a player who brings luck," he said. "They always put me in the team at the right moment and I'm sure this will happen again. Big Phil (Scolari) should keep his eye on the championship because I'm coming back."

Meanwhile four of Brazil's top players were absent early last week, banned from travelling by their European clubs, as the team began training for Wednesday's crucial world cup qualifier against Paraguay, the Brazilian Football Confederation (CBF) said.

Barcelona striker Rivaldo, Parma full-back Junior, Bayern Munich striker Elber and Bayer Leverkusen defender Lucio all failed to turn up as a dispute between South American national teams and European clubs became increasingly bitter.

Barcelona said earlier that they had they "appropriate permission" to field Rivaldo in last Wednesday's Champions League tie away to Wisla

Krakow in Poland.

Brazilian officials said the other three missing players had also been withheld by their clubs.

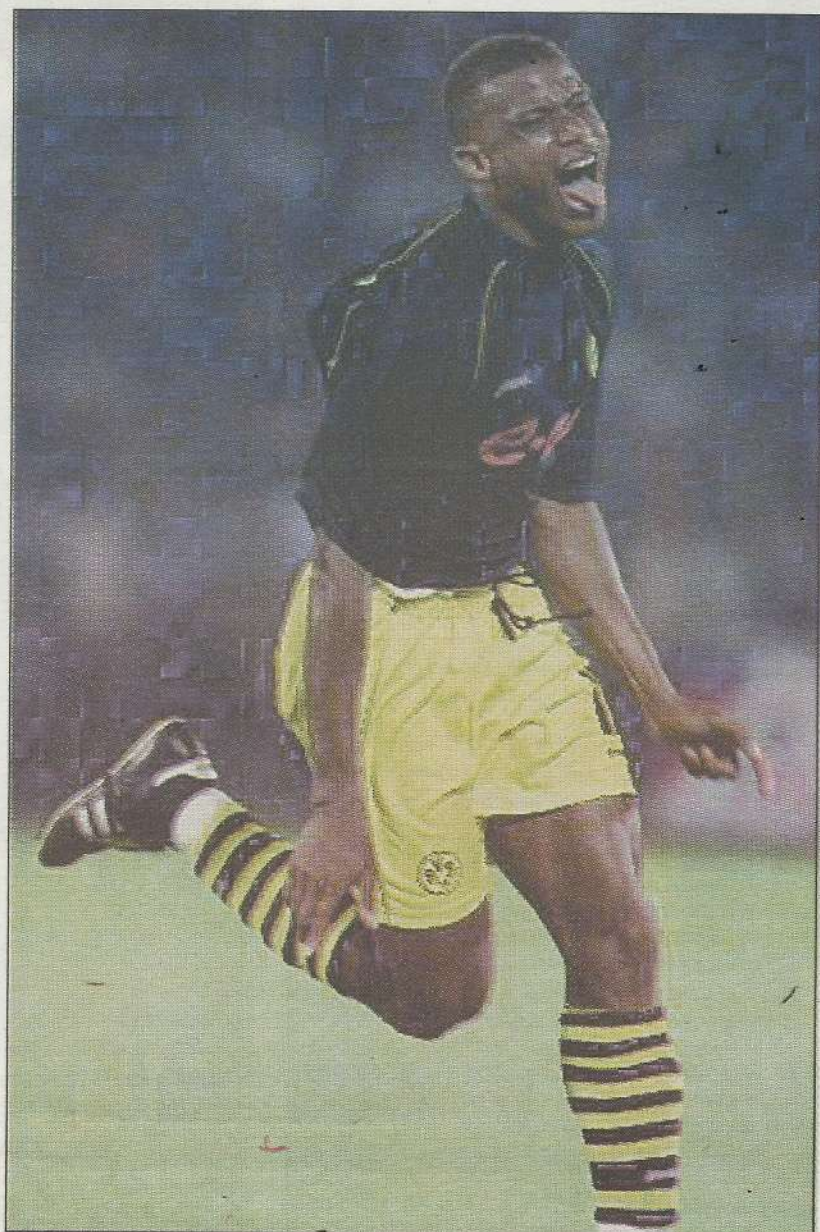
The two German teams had also refused to release Lucio and Elber for July's Copa America in Colombia, which went ahead at six days' notice after earlier being postponed until 2002.

Frustrated coach Luiz Felipe Scolari said: "I don't know when they're going to arrive."

"Perhaps they (the Europeans) want to remove a strong contender to win the Cup," he said, hinting that Europeans were trying to prevent Brazil from qualifying for next year's tournament in Japan and South Korea.

Technical director Antonio Lopes said Brazil would complain to FIFA.

"We obeyed all the rules established by FIFA in calling up the athletes. There's no legal motive for the European clubs to not release their players," said Lopes.



Borussia Dortmund midfielder, Sunday Oliseh celebrating his goal against Shakhtar Donetsk during the first leg, third qualifier of the Champions League, last week.

EX-BENFICA BOSS JAILED

Former Benfica chairman Joao Vale e Azevedo spent his first night in jail last week pending trial on charges he misused club funds, prison officials have said.

Vale e Azevedo had been under house arrest since February awaiting preliminary investigations, which last week showed he could stand trial on charges that he had diverted money from the transfer of Russian goalkeeper Sergei Ovchinnikov.

Court sources last week said that Vale e Azevedo, who has denied any wrongdoing, was accused of using some of

the transfer fee to complete payment for his luxury yacht 'Lucky Me.'

Vale e Azevedo, 45, chaired former European Champions Benfica for three years until he lost a re-election bid last October to rival Manuel Vilarinho.

Vilarinho said shortly after he took over at Benfica that an audit of the club's accounts found debts of some 20 billion escudos (\$105million).

Despite being Portugal's most widely supported club, Benfica have not won a league title since 1993 and has been plagued by debts in recent years.

CELTIC FAN SHOT IN AMSTERDAM

A 41-year-old Celtic fan was shot in the chest in a crowded Amsterdam bar last Wednesday ahead of the Glasgow side's Champions League qualifier against Ajax

Amsterdam.

"The man has been taken to hospital with a chest wound but he is not in immediate danger," Amsterdam police spokeswoman Ellie Vlorax told Reuters.

She said the incident seemed not to be related to a row over the match, but added the exact circumstances of the shooting were still unknown.

The spokeswoman declined to

identify the victim but said his relatives had been informed.

The unidentified attacker escaped and police were still looking for him, she said.



Nicolas Anelka (center) shoots between Daniele Bonera, Fabio Petruzzi, Federico Giunti, of Brescia (left to right), during their UEFA Cup Intertoto match in Paris, last week.

SAVIOLA LOSES DAD

The father of Javier Saviola, who was recently signed by FC Barcelona to a multi-million-dollar contract, died in Buenos Aires last week Tuesday after a lengthy battle with cancer, family members said.

Roberto Saviola was admitted to a private hospital in Buenos Aires last week Wednesday because of his deteriorating health.

Javier Saviola returned to Argentina from Barcelona's pre-season camp in Switzerland the same day.

Roberto Saviola's health was one of Javier's main concerns during the transfer talks between Barcelona and River Plate because he could have received better medical treatment in Spain. Barcelona paid \$26 million for Saviola.

Barcelona coach Carlos Rexach had included Saviola on the roster for last week Wednesday's pre-Champions League match against Poland's Wisla Cracovia.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE THIRD ROUND QUALIFYING RESULTS (1ST LEGS)

TS Wisla (Poland) 3	Barcelona (Spain) 4
FC København (Denmark) 2	Lazio (Italy) 1
Galatasaray SK (Turkey) 2	Levski (Bulgaria) 1
ASK Inter (Slovakia) 3	Rosenborg (Norway) 3
Halmstads (Sweden) 2	Anderlecht Belgium) 3
FC Haka (Finland) 0	Liverpool (England) 5
FC Slavia (Czech Rep.) 1	Panathinaikos (Greece) 2
FC Steaua (Romania) 2	Dynamo (Ukraine) 4
Hajduk (Croatia) 1	Mallorca (Spain) 0
Ajax (Netherlands) 1	Celtic (Scotland) 3
Crvena Zvezda (Yugoslavia) 0	B.Leverkusen (Germany) 0
Rangers (Scotland) 0	Fenerbahce (Turkey) 0
Parma (Italy) 0	Lille (France) 2
FC Porto (Portugal) 2	Grasshopper (Switzerland) 2
Lokomotiv Moscow Russia) 3	Tirol (Austria) 1
FC Shakhtar (Ukraine) 0	Borussia (Germany) 2

• Return legs to be played on August 21-22, with winners qualifying for the Champions League group phase.

RUSSO WRITES

By Joe Russo

Australia v Italy may finally be reality to some but it is still a long way away. At senior level the Azzurri have never played the Socceroos.

The only official game between the two nations took place last year at the M.C.G. and it was the opening game of the Sydney 2000 Olympic soccer tournament.

The Italian Football Federation, when questioned about a friendly game against Australia, admitted that 'contact' had been made from Soccer Australia. However, the decision whether to play or not was a long way away. "The Italian priority is to qualify for the World Cup," they said.

Italy look almost certain to qualify so this shouldn't be a worry. The other issue that may stand in Australia's way is coach, Giovanni Trapattoni. Ultimately it is Trapattoni that will decide which friendlies Italy play based on which ones he feels Italy will benefit from.

From all this though there is one thing that is certain - the Socceroos would be worthy opponents for any team, including Italy, and at full strength no country could afford to underestimate our Socceroos.

◆◆◆◆◆

Antonio Cassano is the name - a 19 year who has joined Roma from Bari and he is set to be a star in the not too distant future.

The talented youngster, who was born the day after Italy won the World Cup in 1982, on the 12th of July, is already under a lot of media attention.

Cassano is a striker and he will have to spend some time on the bench at Roma. However, Cassano doesn't see it that way.

The current champions have arguably the best attack in the Serie A - Gabriel Batistuta, Marco Delvecchio and Vincenzo Montella - all of whom fought over the two starting positions in attack last season. Sitting in behind them of course is Francesco Totti.

Montella spent a lot of time jostling with Delvecchio to be Batistuta's partner and it looked like he may have quit the club at the end of last season. It wasn't to be and now there is a fourth person in the question, namely Cassano.

The youngster claims that he won't sit on the bench too long and, while some may see a touch of arrogance in that, he could well be right.

Cassano is a true rags-to-riches story. He grew up in a poor area in Bari and was a complete failure at school, but his extraordinary footballing ability is what he is being paid a truckload of money for today. Roma have wisely signed him to a long-term contract.

Cassano's day in Roma colours will come and the only question is when. Should he perform up to expectations, then Roma coach, Fabio Capello, will have another headache to solve in attack.

◆◆◆◆◆

Roy Hodgson is back in the Serie A after an 18-month stint with Inter in the early 90's. This time Hodgson will be at the helm of Udinese.

He is of course a former coach of the Swiss national team, Inter and Blackburn Rovers in the Premier League.

At one stage there were even rumours that he may take over as Australia's coach after Terry Venables.

A combination of factors, including his expensive price tag, ensured that Australia (correctly) did not appoint another foreign-based coach. So just when he seemed forgotten about, up he springs again.

Udinese this year will be without arguably their best player from last season Stefano Fiore. The Italian midfielder has signed for Lazio and will be sorely missed at Udinese. The squad that this little provincial side has assembled certainly, on paper at least, doesn't appear great. Hodgson's task will be a very difficult one indeed.

◆◆◆◆◆

Vittorio Cecchi Gori is no longer the Fiorentina President. He was voted out at a shareholders' meeting and General Director, Luciano Luna, is in full control.

Cecchi Gori was a colourful character in many ways but his legacy at Fiorentina is almost tragic.

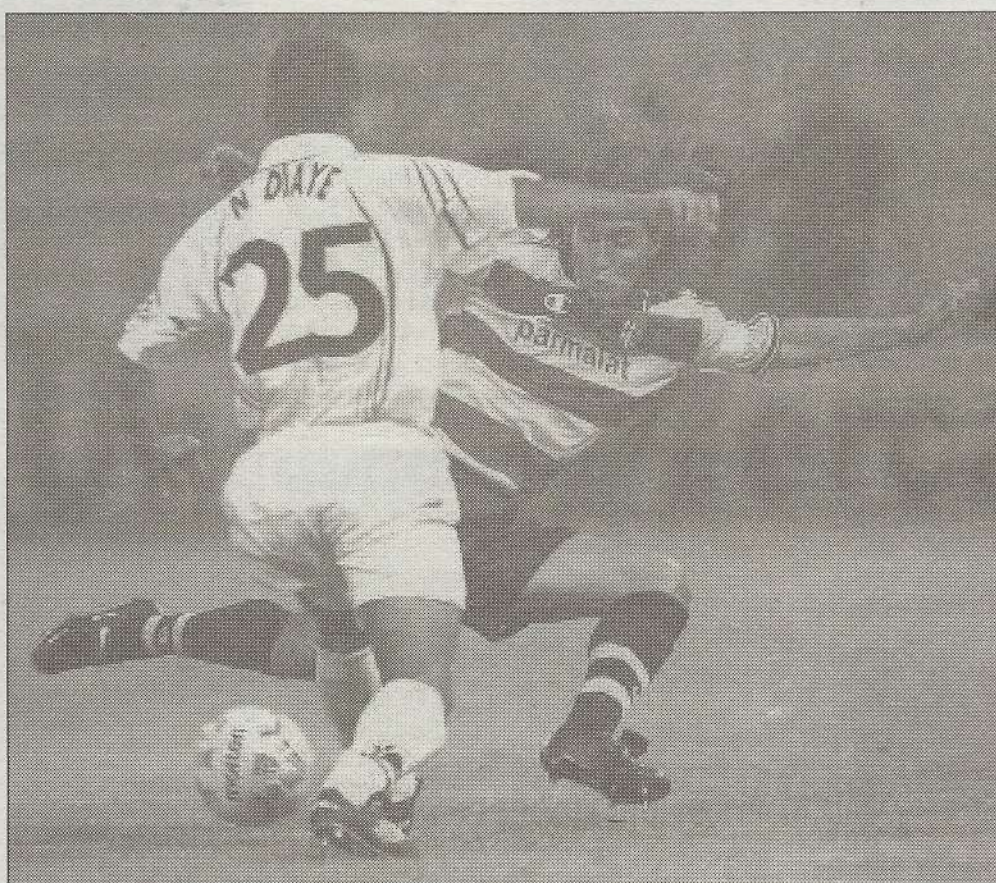
The club still has a debt of approximately \$A112 million, bankruptcy cannot be ruled out, his personal finance company made a handsome profit from transfers especially when Fiorentina sold Edmundo a few years ago, and he faces charges of money laundering and cocaine possession.

Sadly, 59 year old Vittorio was never worthy of succeeding his late father Mario as president of the club.

NEXT WEEK:

Full fixtures list of the Serie A 2001-2002 season. Watch Out.

Italy ... Italy ...



Parma's Fabio Cannavaro (right) in action with Lille's N' Diaye during their Champions League third round qualifying, first leg, soccer match last week at Parma's Tardini Stadium.

MANNINGER NOW A VIOLA

Fiorentina last week finally completed the loan signing of Arsenal goalkeeper Alex Manninger.

The Austria international came through a medical at the Serie A club and a statement on the Fiorentina website confirmed: "The transfer is complete."

Manninger deputised for England No 1 David Seaman on 13 occasions last season but, after featuring only 63 times since signing from Casino Graz in June 1997, he finally lost patience.

His chances of becoming Seaman's long-term successor also disappeared this summer when Arsenal signed Ipswich Town star Richard Wright for £6 million.

The 23-year-old, who will wear the No 30 jersey, is now set to fill the void left by Italy's Francesco Toldo, following his move to Internazionale earlier this summer.

Toldo and Portugal playmaker Manuel Rui Costa were both sold as the Viola looked to pay off huge debts.

LAZIO NOT FOR SALE, CRAGNOTTI INSISTS

Financially-stricken Lazio president Sergio Cragnotti has insisted that he is not selling the club even though the full extent of his debts have now been revealed to the Milan stock exchange. "Lazio are not for sale," he vowed last week.

News was officially posted in Milan over the weekend that Cragnotti has been strenuously trying to raise cash by selling off parts of his debt-ridden Cirio business empire.

A deal was brokered with Clorox to sell 50 per cent of Brazilian company Bombril for \$75 million. However, the American corporation pulled out at the last minute, leaving Cragnotti with acute cash flow problems.

The announcement confirms rumours circulating in Italy for several months that the food magnate is experiencing severe financial difficulties.

Cirio are alleged to be saddled with debts topping \$300 million and with Pavel Nedved and Juan Sebastian Veron sold for a combined fee close to \$75 million and only Gaizka Mendieta brought in at \$42million to replace them, it is clear that the big-spending that brought Hernan Crespo and Claudio Lopez to the club last summer is over.

Cragnotti took control of the club almost ten years ago and the

financier master-minded their floatation on the stock market in 1998 - the first Italian club to do so.

Well-known in Italy for his rags-to-riches story, he rose to prominence bankrolling Raul Gardini's acquisition of the Ferruzzi group in the 1980s.

Later on, Cragnotti used his deal-making abilities to build Cirio, a food, drink and milk company that straddles Europe and South America.

However, those skills have temporarily deserted him and with Lazio



Sergio Cragnotti

fans growing angry at the break-up of the team that won the scudetto in 2000, pressure has grown on Cragnotti to quit.

Last Wednesday night's result in Copenhagen when Dino Zoff's side lost 2-1 in the first-leg of their qualifying tie for the Champions' League has only increased the anxiety at the Olympic Stadium.

For the time being, Cragnotti insists that he will not relinquish the reins at the club and is said to be looking for outside investors to bring in fresh capital.

ULLIVERI BLASTS REF FOR PARMA'S CHAMPIONS LEAGUE BLUNDER

Parma coach Renzo Ulivieri has blasted Spanish referee Antonio Martin for failing to award a penalty in his side's 2-0 Champions' League qualifying defeat by Lille.

"The goalkeeper's foul in the second half was crystal clear," he said.

The Italians went down to second-half goals from midfielder Christoph Landrin and defender Johnny Ecker, but looked unlucky not to receive a penalty when Gregory Wimbee cut down Marco di Vaio after the striker had been put clean through.

"We had more chances to score than Lille and I really can't understand how the referee could let their goalkeeper get away with that foul on Di Vaio," moaned Ulivieri.

"Hideotoshi Nakata was also in with a shout of a penalty in the first half."

Ulivieri admitted, though, that his side were out of shape. "We knew we were going to pay, because Lille were in better physical condition than us," he said.

Lille boss Vahid Halilhodzic was predictably delighted with the result.

"I said we weren't coming here to defend," he said. "We got forward a lot and created quite a few goal-scoring chances - maybe Parma underestimated us."

"Lille were certainly the better team on the night but in two weeks time it could all be very different."

A terrible preliminary, that was how the Champions League qualify-

ing match between Parma and Lille was estimated on Parma's official website.

"All the grit and courage of the Parma players, all the support from the fans weren't enough to stop a compact French side that took a good lead back to France," the site reported.

Parma could also complain as two good penalty appeals for fouls on Nakata and Di Vaio were turned down, and as Lamouchi and Sensini both failed to make the most of golden chances.

Parma's official website says: "Perhaps, the best performance came from the fans, all 14,974 of them cheered the team until the end of the match."

ENGLAND ... ENGLAND ... ENGLAND

Fowler's Liverpool Future in Doubt

Robbie Fowler's Anfield future was thrown into fresh doubt on Sunday after Gerard Houllier dropped him from the Liverpool side that beat Manchester United 2-1 in the Charity Shield at Cardiff's Millennium Stadium.

The England striker paid the price for another difference of opinion with strict disciplinarian Houllier and admitted: "The gaffer has bombed me."

Even though both sides were allowed seven substitutes, Fowler did not even make the bench after incurring Houllier's wrath for the third time in 15 months.

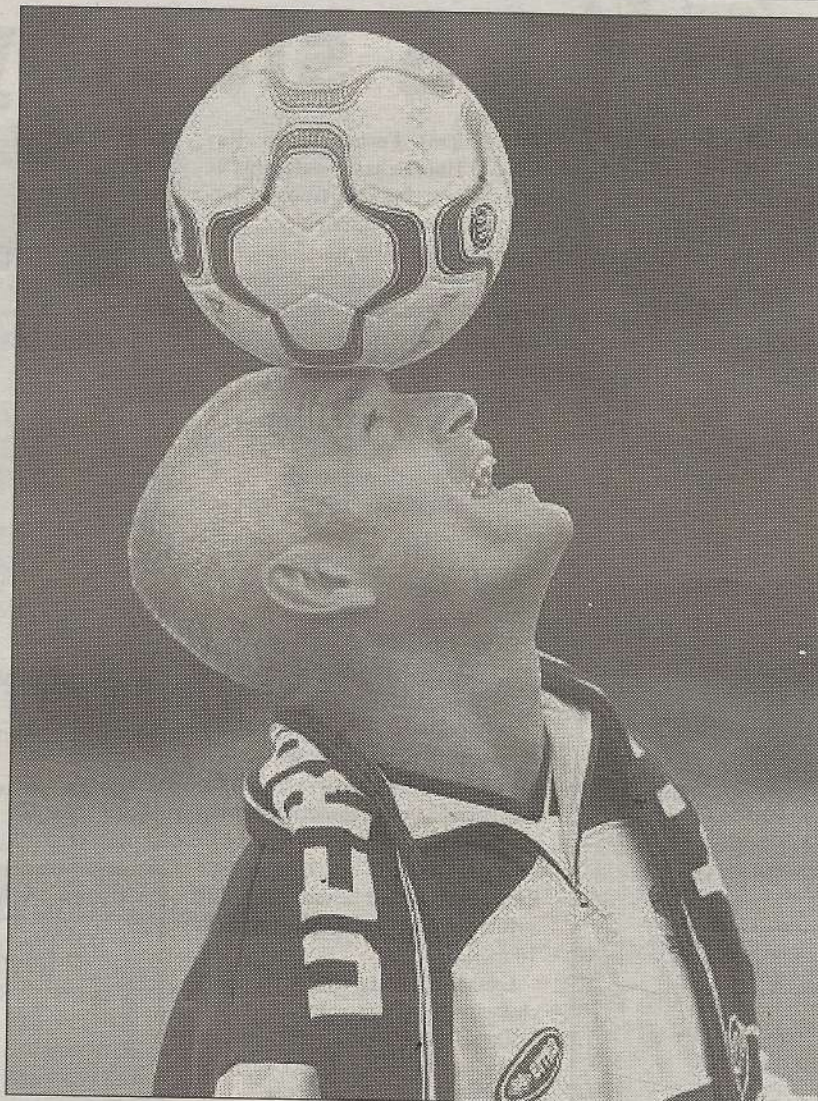
He looked a forlorn figure as he discussed his plight with England coach Sven Goran Eriksson in the tunnel but will report with the rest of the national squad on Monday for Wednesday's friendly with Holland at White Hart Lane.

Fowler refused to go into detail as he headed for the team coach following Liverpool's victory but explained his absence by saying: "I have been bombed. The manager has dropped me."

He was bitterly disappointed at being left on the bench against FC Haka in last Wednesday's Champions League qualifier and is believed to have objected to being omitted from the starting lineup against fierce rivals United.

Houllier responded by excluding him from the 18-man squad altogether and shrugged aside questions, saying: "It was my decision. He is fine and will be OK to join up with the England squad."

When pressed further on why the fully fit Fowler, 26, did not even make the bench, Houllier added: "You may think it's surprising but it was my decision. It was an internal decision, full stop."



Derby County's new Italian signing Fabrizio Ravanelli juggles the ball at Derby's training ground in Derby, central England, last week.

MAN UTD TARGET UNBEATEN RUN TO SEND-OFF FERGIE

David Beckham revealed last week that Manchester United are aiming to remain unbeaten all season — as a send-off to manager Alex Ferguson.

This is the Scottish supreme's last campaign in the Old Trafford hot seat before he retires and Beckham is determined Ferguson will go out in style.

"To win every trophy we play in would be a fitting last season, wouldn't it? The Premiership, the European Cup, the FA Cup, the Worthington Cup. And to not lose a game all season," said Beckham.

The 26-year-old midfielder added: "Every year, the manager always says: 'We want to go through the whole season without losing a game'. That would be great this year."

"It might be his last year but I don't think he has mel- lowed one bit," the England captain explained.

As well as his drive Beckham said there was no lessening in Ferguson's air of

authority.

"He's got an aura about him," Beckham told the Manchester United magazine. "When he walks into a room, people take notice."

"I've grown up with it and plenty of others around here

have, too. We've got the ultimate respect for him."

"He's told me when I've done things wrong and when I've done things right. More than that, he's given me the confidence to become the player I am."

'England can beat Germany'

Owen Hargreaves has added spice to the England versus Germany clash on September 1 by insisting that Sven Goran Eriksson's side will prevail.

The Canadian-born midfielder, who tasted Champions League success with his club Bayern Munich last term, believes England have the edge over their German opponents after successive wins against Spain, Finland, Albania and Greece.

"Of course England can win. They have a good team, strong players and great strikers like Michael Owen and Robbie Fowler."

"I can't really see any weaknesses. Germany have a strong side and are quite confident but England are on a roll," revealed the 20-year-old.

Hargreaves has already pledged his allegiance to the three lions and foresees a successful period for the national team and their foreign manager.

"Under Eriksson, England have one of the brightest futures of all the teams in the world and I really want to be part of that," stated the avid Bolton fan.

It has been suggested that Hargreaves might play in the crunch match in Munich, where England must win to have a chance of topping Group Nine, but the star feels he has lots of time on his side.

"I have no expectations of going straight into the first team. Why should I? I'm only 20 and just starting out," added the midfield dynamo.

Indeed Hargreaves only

played 16 Bundesliga games for Bayern before his Champions League entrance against Valencia and Real Madrid.

INJURY K-Os DYER AGAIN

Newcastle midfielder Kieron Dyer will be ousted for another month after his latest injury setback, Press Association reported on last week.

However, Dyer is relieved that the injury is only a muscle tear and not a recurrence of the shin problem which has kept the England international out for six months.

Dyer broke down in training 10 days ago as he attempted to increase his chances of making the start of the new season, but although it was initially feared that the bone grafts being used to repair a stress fracture of his shinbone had given way, the scan revealed no lasting damage.

"I had the scan on Monday and got the result yesterday," said Dyer.

"It showed a muscle tear which means I will be out for the next three to four weeks."

"But fortunately, this has got nothing to do with the original shin problem, and to tell the truth, I'm relieved about that because when I first did it last week, I thought I was going to be out for six months."

"I'm a quick healer and it's just a case of waiting for things to get themselves right."

NATION WIDE LEAGUE

FIRST DIVISION

Man City 3 Watford 0, Bradford 4 Barnsley 0, Gillingham 5 Preston 0, Grimsby 1 Crewe 0, Millwall 4 Norwich 0, Nottingham Forest 1 Sheffield Utd 1, Rotherham 2 Crystal Palace 3, Stockport 0 Coventry 2, Walsall 2 West Brom 1, Wimbledon 3 Birmingham 1, Wolverhampton 2 Portsmouth 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gillingham	1	1	0	0	5	0	3
Bradford	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Millwall	1	1	0	0	4	0	3
Man City	1	1	0	0	3	0	3
Wimbledon	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Coventry	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Crystal Palace	1	1	0	0	3	2	3
Walsall	1	1	0	0	2	1	3
Grimsby	1	1	0	0	1	0	3
Portsmouth	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Wolverhampton	1	0	1	0	2	2	1
Notim Forest	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Sheff Utd	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
Burnley	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Sheff Wed	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rotherham	1	0	0	1	2	3	0
West Brom	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Crewe	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Birmingham	1	0	0	1	1	3	0
Stockport	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
Watford	1	0	0	1	0	3	0
Barnsley	1	0	0	1	0	4	0
Preston	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

SECOND DIVISION

Blackpool 0 Reading 2, Cambridge Utd 0 Brighton 0, Cardiff 1 Wycombe 0, Chesterfield 3 Colchester 6, Huddersfield 1 Bournemouth 0, QPR 1 Stoke 0, Northampton 0 Bristol City 3, Port Vale 4 Notts County 2, Swindon 0 Peterborough 0, Tranmere 1 Bury 2, Wigan 1 Brentford 1, Wrexham 3 Oldham 3.

THIRD DIVISION

Bristol Rovers 1 Torquay 0, Carlisle 0 Luton 2, Cheltenham 1 Leyton Orient 1, Exeter 1 Hull 3, Hartlepool 1 Mansfield 1, Kidderminster 1 Scunthorpe 0, Lincoln City 1 Halifax 2, Macclesfield 1 Swansea 3, Oxford United 1 Rochdale 2, Plymouth 0 Shrewsbury 1, Southend 1 Darlington 0, York 0 Rushden and Diamonds 1.

ABSW FORECASTS ... ABSW FORECASTS ... ABSW FORECASTS ...

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

Position in 2000/01: 12th

Transfers: In- Goran Bunjevcevic (Crvena Zvezda), Shwan Jalal (Hastings), Gustavo Poyet (Chelsea), Teddy Sheringham (Manchester United), Christian Ziege (Liverpool).

Out- Ian Walker (Leicester City), Sol Campbell (Arsenal).

Tottenham have been busy in the transfer market and welcome last years EPL 'Player of the Year' Teddy Sheringham to the club.

Their best signing however is the brilliant attacking midfielder Gustavo Poyet, who should add another dimension to the Spurs attack. Christian Ziege is another excellent acquisition, and alongside Yugoslavian international Goran Bunjevcevic, will go along way in filling the hole left by the departing Sol Campbell.

The Spurs should have one of their best seasons in recent times under the guidance of Glenn Hoddle.

Players to watch: Gustavo Poyet, Sergei Rebrov, Stephen Carr.

WEST HAM UNITED

Position in 2000/01: 15th

Transfers: In- David James (Aston Villa), Sebastien Schemmel (Meitz).

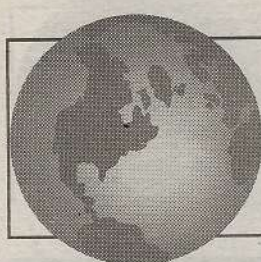
Out- Stuart Pearce (Manchester City), Frank Lampard (Chelsea), Davor Suker (Out of contract), Marc Keller (Strasbourg).

West Ham self destructed last year when ex-boss Harry Redknapp walked away from the club for not being ambitious enough after the sale of start defender Rio Ferdinand. Unfortunately West Ham don't look like having an easy ride this season and have done little to replenish their squad.

The Hammers bought David James who was starting to fulfill his potential last year, but yet again the club has sold out on their star player, this time Frank Lampard Jr. Paolo Di Canio and Frederic Kanoute are a very underrated strike force but realistically a mid-table position is the best I think West Ham can hope for this season.

Players to watch: Paolo Di Canio, Frederic Kanoute, Joe Cole.

* CONCLUDED



FIFA

World Rankings

(Valid until August 22)

FIFA
founded 1904

1	France	810	69	Bolivia	516	137	Grenada	298
2	Brazil	795	70	Senegal	509	138	Yemen	295
3	Argentina	764	71	Burkina Faso	506	139	Rwanda	286
4	Italy	735	72=	Algeria	505	140	Myanmar	283
5	Germany	726	72=	Kuwait	505	141	Tajikistan	271
6	Spain	715	74	Iraq	504	142	Surinam	268
7	Portugal	712	75	Bosnia-Herz	501	143	Luxemburg	263
8	Paraguay	711	76	Cyprus	500	144	Ethiopia	262
9	Czech Republic	709	77	Macedonia FYR	498	145	Andorra	255
10	Netherlands	695	78	Canada	496	146	Palestine	253
11	Romania	689	79	Georgia	495	147	Bangladesh	251
12	Yugoslavia	688	80	Estonia	493	148	Maldives	248
13	Mexico	687	81	Congo DR	488	149=	Liechtenstein	246
14=	Colombia	682	82	Cuba	483	149=	Sri Lanka	246
14=	England	682	83	Haiti	482	151	Korea DPR	245
16	United States	672	84	Belarus	480	152	Tanzania	239
17	Denmark	670	85=	Albania	475	153	Antigua & Barbuda	235
18	Croatia	668	85=	New Zealand	475	154	Botswana	230
19	Sweden	659	87	El Salvador	473	155	Benin	225
20	Russia	658	88	Indonesia	470	156	Nepal	220
21	Norway	654	89	Gabon	469	157	Dominica	216
22	Tunisia	647	89	Qatar	469	158	Gambia	215
23	Ireland Republic	640	91	Oman	467	159	San Marino	213
24	Poland	638	92	Congo	460	160	Bermuda	209
25	South Africa	633	93	Syria	456	161	Cayman Islands	207
26	Belgium	631	94	Lithuania	455	162=	Cape Verde Is.	206
27	Trinidad & Tobago	622	95	Latvia	453	162=	Dominican Rep.	206
28=	Morocco	621	96	Guinea	451	164	British Virgin Is.	202
28=	Saudi Arabia	621	97=	Armenia	449	165	Kyrgyzstan	196
30	Uruguay	620	97=	Namibia	449	166	Laos	194
31	Chile	619	99	Lebanon	440	167=	Belize	187
32	Japan	614	100=	Jordan	437	167=	Eritrea	187
33	Costa Rica	610	100=	Vietnam SR	437	169=	Chinese Taipei	182
34	Cameroon	609	102	Kenya	423	169=	Vanuatu	182
35=	Slovakia	608	103	Moldova	422	171	Cambodia	178
35=	Turkey	608	104	Kazakhstan	421	172	Mauritania	172
37	Scotland	606	105	Wales	416	173	Chad	165
38	Egypt	602	106	Northern Ireland	413	174	Samoa	158
39=	Korea Republic	599	107	Barbados	412	175	Guyana	154
39=	Nigeria	599	108	Singapore	410	176	Cook Islands	152
39=	Slovenia	599	109	Malaysia	404	177	Tonga	151
42	Cote d'Ivoire	594	110	Mali	399	178	Philippines	143
43	Austria	592	111	Uganda	390	179	Netherlands Ant.	124
44	Israel	586	112	Panama	388	180	C. African Rep.	121
45	Jamaica	584	113	Azerbaijan	383	181=	Guinea-Bissau	115
46	AUSTRALIA	583	114	Libya	380	181=	Macao	115
47	Ukraine	579	115=	Turkmenistan	377	183	Bahamas	111
48	Honduras	578	115=	Venezuela	377	184	Sao Tome e	
49	Bulgaria	577	117	India	376		Principe	110
50	Ecuador	571	118	Bahrain	363	185	Pakistan	106
51	Iran	566	119	Faroe Islands	359	186	Aruba	101
52	Iceland	565	120	Malawi	357	187	Niger	95
53	Peru	560	121	Mozambique	353	188	Mongolia	94
54	Hungary	559	122	Sudan	351	189	Nicaragua	89
55	Ghana	557	123	Fiji	349	190	Brunei Darussalam	86
56	Angola	555	124	Madagascar	348	190	Equatorial Guinea	86
57	Greece	552	125	Mauritius	341	192	Seychelles	79
58	Guatemala	548	126	Tahiti	336	193	Djibouti	76
59	Finland	545	127	Lesotho	329	194	Anguilla	65
59	Zambia	545	128	St Lucia	327	195	Papua New Guinea	61
61	Thailand	541	129	St Kitts & Nevis	324	196	Somalia	56
62	Switzerland	539	130=	St Vincent/Gre	323	197	Puerto Rico	55
63=	China PR	527	130=	Swaziland	323	198	US Virgin Islands	48
63=	Uzbekistan	527	132	Sierra Leone	314	199	Guam	27
65	Togo	520	133	Malta	312	200	Turks and Caicos Is.	21
66	Liberia	519	134	Hong Kong	310	201	American Samoa	16
67=	UAE	518	135	Solomon Islands	309	202	Bhutan	14
67=	Zimbabwe	518	136	Burundi	305	203	Montserrat	11

Note: Teams inactive since 1991 and teams which have not played yet do not appear in the table.

Transfer News ... Transfer News ...

US side eyes Gazza

Miami Fusion coach Ray Hudson has revealed that he is trying sign troubled former England midfielder Paul Gascoigne from Everton.

"From what I can gather, Paul would be perfect for us and we would be perfect for him," he said.

Gascoigne's future on Merseyside is in doubt after nine torrid months since his transfer from Middlesbrough.

Everton coach Walter Smith has vowed to be patient with the 34-year-old playmaker as he returns from yet another injury, but may feel it is in the club's interests to cut their losses.

"I have put calls in to Walter Smith to talk seriously to him about it," said Hudson. "I haven't heard anything back as yet but it is something that I want to put to Everton and to Paul himself."

"If he wants to enjoy his football and lifestyle again, there is nowhere better. I know because I'm a Newcastle lad and made a similar move towards the end of my career."

"It's just a case of waiting to see what Everton say about it before we can take anything further," he added to The Times.

Gascoigne may be tempted by a new challenge and the less stressful lifestyle in Florida, but as Hudson insinuated, the Major League Soccer salary cap may put off the \$45,000-a-week star.

His advisers nonetheless contacted the MLS last year with a view to placing Gascoigne at a club. "I will definitely go abroad but I just don't know where or when. It could be America or Australia — I haven't decided yet," he said at the time.

Gazza's form for Everton early last season encouraged speculation of an international recall, before he suffered a



Paul Gascoigne: "I will definitely go abroad but ... don't know where or when."

thigh injury against Aston Villa in November.

Thereafter, a series of unrelated injuries restricted Gascoigne to only sporadic appearances, while his troubles

off the field, relating to alcohol and the break-up of his marriage, resulted in him spending a month in a clinic in Arizona earlier this summer.

VAMPETA RETURNS HOME FROM PSG

Paris Saint Germain's Brazilian playmaker Vampeta has agreed terms with Flamengo.

The 27-year-old international has signed a three-year deal and his move frees up a foreign spot for PSG — with countryman Alex, of Saint-Etienne, an obvious target.

Vampeta has endured a crisis-ridden two-year stay at PSG during which he drifted in-and-out of the first squad in the wake of endless clashes

with management and the myriad of coaches that have walked-in and out of the turbulent, but famous Paris club.

The complex transfer also includes the option for PSG to take on Brazilian striker Reinaldo from Flamengo.

PSG just only last got the go-ahead to make use of another gifted Brazilian, Ronaldinho after an almost year-long tussle with his Brazilian clubside, Gremio over transfer fees.

Fulham, Porto, Saints chase Bierhoff

German skipper Oliver Bierhoff is waiting on a potential move to Southampton.

Available on a free transfer from AC Milan, the 33 year-old centre-forward wants to speak to Fulham and Porto before making up his mind on where he will play next season.

Saints chairman Rupert Lowe is ready to offer the German international a \$45,000-a-week contract.

However, the German captain is still hedging his bets for a possible better deal at Portuguese giants, Porto who have renewed their interests following their disappointment in failing to lure Brazilian striker, Jardel back to the club.

Sources at Southampton revealed last week that Bierhoff would have concluded his transfer to the English Premiership side last week, if not for the sudden interest by Porto.

If Bierhoff eventually moves to the Saints, he will easily be the club's



Oliver Bierhoff

highest-paid player and will carry the weight of expectations into the new season as new manager, Stuart Graham attempts to improve on the 10th place finish achieved by the club last season.

Bierhoff meanwhile is desperate to settle the debate over his future as he leads out Germany in the final lap of their 2002 World Cup qualifying campaign, which resumes with a crunch game against perennial foes, England, next month in Munich.

'Olembe not for sale'

Liverpool target Solomon Olembe is not for sale insists his club, Nantes.

The young Cameroun international has spoken openly of his desire to move to England for the coming season, but Nantes sports chief Robert Budzynski said:

"We held a meeting today (Friday) with president Bobin.

But things are clear. Like Eric (Carriere), Solomon is a Nantes player. They wanted to leave. We accepted this, but we have not had any offers. They thus will remain with us."

Following Nantes sensational title campaign last season, an avalanche of offers flooded the Club as European rivals attempted to lure-away their relatively-young side, but amazingly none of the players made any move out of the club.

Liverpool have however persisted in their pursuit of Olembe, and it remains to be seen if Nantes will eventually hold onto the speedy Camerounian international.

SCOTTISH PREMIERSHIP

RAMPANT LARRSON BREAKS HEARTS



Claudio Cannigia (right), Rangers striker in action.

Celtic striker Henrik Larsson began what could be another solo drive up the Scottish Premier League's scoring charts with a double strike in the reigning champions' 2-0 victory over Hearts at Parkhead on Saturday.

The Swedish international forward, who scored 53 goals last year to win the coveted Golden Shoe award for Europe's top scorer, fired in a free-kick on the stroke of half-time to open the scoring.

Larsson added his second in the 64th minute to put Hearts out of their misery and send last season's domestic Treble winners top of the league with an unblemished goals against record.

However Larsson was denied the chance of a hat-trick when he was substituted by manager Martin O'Neill, eager to save his star striker from the rigours of too much football.

"Henrik is a centre-forward who has scored two goals so he's bound to feel unhappy (about being substituted)," said O'Neill.

"He won't thank me because he has a long way to go from matching last season's tally".

Despite Larsson's abundant scoring talents, O'Neill insisted he was right to replace the Swede.

Celtic's win came on the back of Wednesday's thrilling 3-1 Champions League victory in Amsterdam over former European giants Ajax and O'Neill admitted he was fearful of a let down.

"It was comfortable enough, but I was naturally concerned after the euphoria of Wednesday night," he said.

While Hearts languish in ninth Celtic's arch-rivals Rangers got their season back on track with a crushing 4-1 victory over Dunfermline.

Dutchman Bert Konterman answered his critics with two goals, with former Hibernian forward Russell Latapy and Norway striker Tore Andre Flo grabbing one apiece.

Dunfermline, who started the day on top of the table, got one back thanks to a bizarre own goal from Rangers' keeper Stefan Klos who punched a Barry Nicholson second-half corner into his own net.

It was an important result for under pressure Rangers' boss Dick Advocaat and came after his side's midweek goalless draw against Turkish champions Fenerbahce.

The Glasgow giants played the last 30 minutes of that match with 10 men after Michael Mols was sent-off after a violent confrontation.

Dunfermline 1 Rangers 4, Celtic 2 Hearts 0, Dundee 1 Livingston 0, Hibernian 2 Aberdeen 0, St Johnstone 0 Dundee United 1, Motherwell 2 Kilmarnock 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Celtic	3	3	0	0	6	0	9
2. Rangers	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
3. Dundee	3	2	1	0	5	3	7
4. Dunfermline	3	2	0	1	8	6	6
5. Dundee Utd	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
6. Hibernian	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
7. Livingston	3	1	1	1	2	2	4
8. Hearts	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
9. Kilmarnock	3	0	2	1	4	5	2
10. Motherwell	3	0	2	1	4	7	2
11. Aberdeen	3	0	0	3	0	6	0
12. St Johnstone	3	0	0	3	0	6	0

GERMAN BUNDESLIGA

DORTMUND BOLT AWAY AS BAYERN STRUGGLE

European and German champions Bayern Munich needed a late header from Brazilian striker Giovane Elber to glean a 1-1 draw at high-flying Bayer Leverkusen on Saturday as their modest start to the season continued.

Their performance was in contrast to bitter rivals, Borussia Dortmund who maintained their hundred percent showing with another impressive win - this a 4-0 hammering of Wolfsburg.

Bayern went into the match with a win and a draw from their two games this season having lost at Borussia Moenchengladbach on the opening day and coach Ottmar Hitzfeld had demanded an improvement on their travels.

But Leverkusen intended on securing a third win in three outings and after a tense opening period veteran German international Ulf Kirsten gave them the lead after 69 minutes from close range after good work by Oliver Neuville.

With Leverkusen having twice been beaten to the title by Bayern in recent seasons the hosts had every incentive to increase the margin between them to a hefty five points but Elber's fine leap to connect with a headed pass from Frenchman Willy Sagnol saved a point.

The dropped points means Leverkusen lose ground on Kaiserslautern and Borussia Dortmund, who both kept up their 100 percent record with home wins to move two points clear of the chasing pack.

Dortmund hammered Wolfsburg 4-0 with Brazilian new arrival Amoroso on target once again for his fourth goal of the campaign. Vratislav Lovkenc scored twice for Kaiserslautern in a 2-1 success over Cologne.

Meanwhile, 1860 Munich got their first point and goal of the season with a 1-1 draw at home to Hamburg.



1860 Munich's Didier Dheedene (left) tries a header while Hamburg goalie Mark Pieckenhagen watches during their match.

Bayer Leverkusen 1 Bayern Munich 1, 1860 Munich 1 Hamburg 1, VfB Stuttgart 0 Werder Bremen 0, Energie Cottbus 1 Nurnberg 0, Freiburg 1 Hertha Berlin 3, Borussia Dortmund 4 Wolfsburg 0, Kaiserslautern 2 Cologne 1, St. Pauli 0 Rostock 1 Borussia Moenchengladbach, 0 Schalke 04 0, 1860 Munich 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. B. Dortmund	3	3	0	0	8	0	9
2. Kaiserslautern	3	3	0	0	9	3	9
3. B. Leverkusen	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
4. Energie Cottbus	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
5. Bayern Munich	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
6. Cologne	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
7. SV Hamburg	3	1	1	1	3	2	4
8. Hertha Berlin	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
9. B. M'gladbach	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
10. Werder Bremen	3	1	1	1	3	5	4
11. SC Freiburg	3	1	0	2	4	5	3
12. FC Nurnberg	3	1	0	2	2	3	3
13. Hansa Rostock	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
14. Sankt Pauli	3	0	2	1	1	2	2
15. VfB Stuttgart	3	0	2	1	0	2	2
16. Schalke 04	2	0	1	1	0	3	1
17. VfL Wolfsburg	3	0	1	2	2	7	1
18. 1860 Munich	3	0	1	2	1	7	1

FRENCH CHAMPIONNAT



PSG's Augustine Okocha (right) vies with Marcello Trapasso of Sochaux.

DESCHAMPS'S MONACO IN THE DOLDRUMS

If Didier Deschamps thought success as a coach would come as easily to him as playing, the World Cup and Euro 2000 winner was soundly disabused of that view last Saturday when his moneybags Monaco side crashed to a 3-0 defeat at French league tailenders Rennes.

In a match between two sides who have made a disastrous start a hat-trick from Olivier Monterrubio made all the difference as the man who left champions Nantes for a regular first team place scored twice in the opening 25 minutes - once from the spot - and again near the end.

Monaco have yet to score a goal after opening their season with a 1-0 home reverse to promoted Sochaux - a loss they followed with a goalless home stalemate against another promoted side in Montpellier.

Paris Saint Germain looked as if they would also find the route to goal blocked until Brazilian substitute Jose Aloisio scrambled home a winner in the final minute for a 1-0 win over Sochaux, whose 100 percent record ended. Aloisio outshone compatriot Ronaldinho Gaucho, who was making his home debut.

Lens are top of the pile, however, after an impressive 2-0 win over Marseille, who are seemingly locked in another struggle to get out of the league doldrums. Lamine Sakho's solo run past five men brought the opener as he drilled a left foot shot low into the net on the hour.

Elsewhere, Raynald Denoueix, coach of reigning champions Nantes, boldly dropped strikers Pierre-Yves Andre and Vioriel Moldovan as neither has shone so far in what has been a hugely disappointing start for the Canaries.

Denoueix also left the pair out last week against Lens - though that strategy appeared to backfire as Lens won 2-1. Wilfried Dalmat and former Sedan favourite Olivier Quint took on goalscoring responsibilities - without success. Like Monaco, Nantes have just one point to their name. Last year's revelation Lille, held unbeaten Bordeaux to a draw away.

Montpellier are going well in third spot, level on points with Lille and Bordeaux, with five points from their three games - one behind Sochaux - after hammering Metz 3-0.

Rennes 3 Monaco 0, Lens 2 Marseille 0, Sedan 1 Guingamp 1, Bordeaux 0 Lille 0, Montpellier 2 Metz 0, Paris St Germain 1 Sochaux 0, Troyes 0 Nantes 0, Lorient 0 Auxerre 1, Bastia 1 Lyon 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Lens	3	3	0	0	6	1	9
2. Auxerre	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
3. Sochaux	3	2	0	1	5	4	6
4. Lyon	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
5. Montpellier	3	1	2	0	4	1	5
6. Lille	3	1	2	0	3	1	5
7. Bordeaux	3	1	2	0	2	0	5
8. Paris SG	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
9. Troyes	3	1	1	1	4	2	4
10. Guingamp	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
11. Lorient	3	1	0	2	2	4	3
12. Rennes	3	1	0	2	6	9	3
13. Metz	3	1	0	2	2	5	3
14. Sedan	3	0	2	1	2	4	2
15. Marseille	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
16. Bastia	3	0	1	2	2	4	1
17. Nantes	3	0	1	2	1	4	1
18. Monaco	3	0	1	2	0	4	1

WORLD LEAGUES

POLAND

Ostrowiec 0 Polonia Warsaw 1, Gornik Zabrze 1 Wisla Krakow 2, GKS Katowice 1 Zaglebie Lubin 0, Odra Wodzislaw 2 Widzew Lodz 0, Stomil Olsztyn 1 Pogon Szczecin 1, Legia Warsaw 1 Groclin Grodzisk 1, Slask Wroclaw 1 Amica Wronki 2, RKS Radomsko 1 Ruch Chorzow 0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Amica Wronki	4	3	1	0	8	3	10
2. Odra Wodzislaw	4	3	0	1	7	4	9
3. Polonia Warsaw	4	2	1	1	8	5	7
4. Wisla Krakow	4	2	1	1	7	6	7
5. Zaglebie Lubin	3	2	0	1	5	2	6
6. GKS Katowice	3	2	0	1	4	4	6
7. Pogon Szczecin	4	1	3	0	5	2	6
8. Slask Wroclaw	4	2	0	2	7	6	6
9. Stomil Olsztyn	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
10. Legia Warsaw	4	1	1	2	6	4	4
11. RKS Radomsko	4	1	1	2	1	4	4
12. Groclin Grodzisk	4	1	1	2	4	8	4
13. Ruch Chorzow	4	1	1	2	2	6	4
14. Widzew Lodz	3	1	0	2	3	6	3
15. KSZO Ostrowiec	3	0	1	2	0	2	1
16. Gornik Zabrze	4	0	1	3	2	7	1

CROATIA

Zagreb 1 Hajduk Split 0, Marsonia 0 Hrvatski Dragovoljac 0, Zadar 4 Cakovec 1, Cibalia 1 Dinamo Zagreb 2, Rijeka 4 Osijek 0, Varteks 2 Slaven Belupo 0, Sibenik 1 Pomorac 2, TSK 1 Kamen Ingrad 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Zagreb	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
2. Varteks	3	2	1	0	6	2	7
3. D. Zagreb	3	2	1	0	6	3	7
4. Pomorac	3	2	1	0	5	2	7
5. Rijeka	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
6. Cakovec	3	2	0	1	5	6	6
7. Zadar	3	1	2	0	5	2	5
8. Marsonia	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
9. Hajduk Split	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
10. Cibalia	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
11. Osijek	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
12. K. Ingrad	3	0	2	1	4	6	2
13. TSK	3	0	1	2	4	7	1
14. S. Belupo	3	0	1	2	2	5	1
15. H. Dragovoljac	3	0	1	2	1	6	1
16. Sibenik	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

DENMARK

Esbjerg 2 FC Copenhagen 1, Vejle 3 Silkeborg 0, Lyngby 1 Brondby 0, AGF Aarhus 0 FC Midtjylland 1, OB Odense 0 AaB Aalborg 2, AB Copenhagen 1 Viborg 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Brondby	4	3	0	1	10	2	9
2. AaB Aalborg	4	3	0	1	7	4	9
3. Lyngby	4	2	2	0	5	2	8
4. FC Copenhagen	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
5. Vejle	4	1	2	1	7	7	5
6. Viborg	4	1	2	1	4	4	5
7. FC Midtjylland	4	1	2	1	3	3	5
8. AB Copenhagen	4	1	1	2	5	6	4
9. Esbjerg	3	1	1	1	3	4	4
10. OB Odense	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
11. Silkeborg	4	0	2	2	2	7	2
12. AGF Aarhus	4	0	1	3	1	9	1

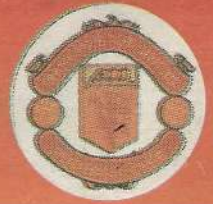
SWITZERLAND

Basel 3 Young Boys 1, Servette 1 Grasshopper 1, Lausanne 0 Aarau 3, Sion 3 Lucerne 1, Zurich 1 Neuchatel 1

	P	Pts
Zurich FC	7	15
FC Sion	7	13
Young Boys	7	12
Grasshopper	7	11
Aarau	7	11
Lugano	6	10
Neuchatel	6	9
Servette	7	9
Basel	6	7
St Gallen	6	5
Lucerne	7	2
Lausanne	5	1



2001 FA CHARITY SHIELD

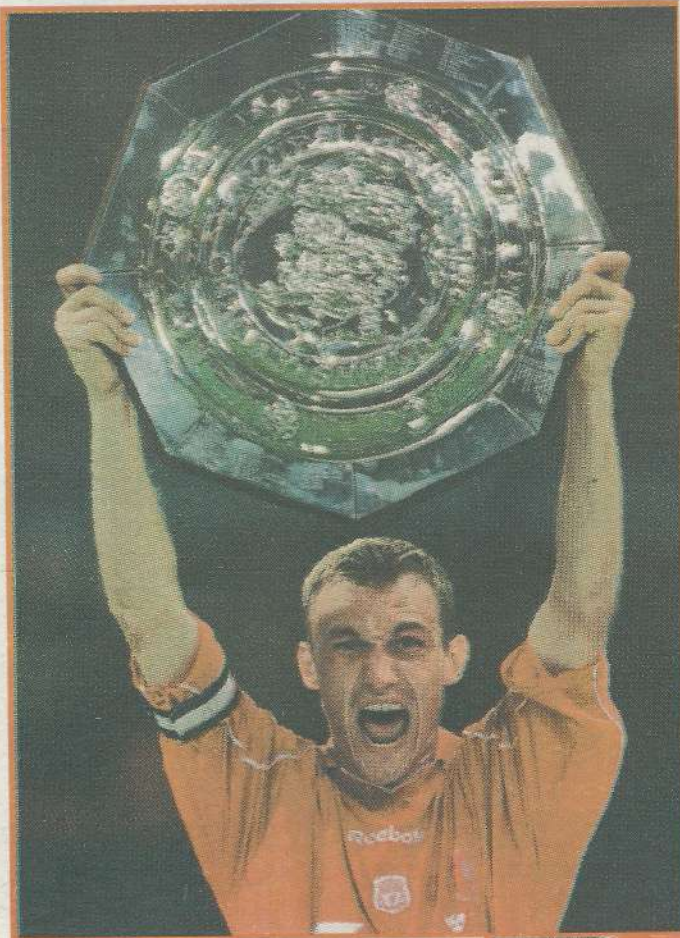


LIVERPOOL

2

MANCHESTER UNITED

1



(Clockwise from Left) Liverpool's Captain Sammi Hyypia proudly holds aloft the FA Charity Shield, at Cardiff's Millenium Stadium.

• Relief as Ruud Van Nistlerooy finally scores the goal to put the Red Devils back in the match.

• England Manager Sven Goran Eriksson consoles England captain David Beckham after a heart breaking loss.

• Manchester United's gun left winger, Ryan Giggs evades a diving challenge from Liverpool midfielder Danny Murphy.

• Liverpool's John Arne Riise and Emile Heskey embrace Michael Owen after the England striker scored Liverpool's second goal.

• Liverpool striker Emile Heskey (left) bravely dives for a spectacular header under pressure from Manchester United defender Gary Neville.

